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Volume 3, Number 3, for the month July 2011-August 2011



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On the cover: CATWOMAN. Image courtesy: WARNER BROTHERS INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND ROCKSTEADY STUDIOS

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GAME ON!

Gaming is beginning to make inroads into India life and is fast becoming an alternative urban entertainment avenue. In this superfast world of fiery action, what is new? A report from E3, the premier gaming expo, on the new games, new gaming accessories and new technologies.



34

Cinema in the living room

Take home entertainment to another level altogether by putting together a home theatre set-up that delivers real cinema-like experience. G&G chooses the right gadgets for just such a project.



41

Mobiles Special



Which smartphone has the best camera? People nowadays look at a mobile phone as a handy camera. But even as companies churn out handsets with greater imaging qualities, G&G stacks five cameras up to see which is the best.

38

Security Blanket

Covers for gadgets are not mere showpieces to be flaunted in style. They can also serve innovative uses. Here are some that enhance the actual working of your gadget.

66

Natural shot

There can be no more rewarding experience than to catch the beast in the wild at its natural best. But wildlife photography is not a walk in the park. It requires a lot of patience and a constant finger work to get the freeze the best frames.

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Webcam security

There is no need to rush out and purchase an expensive security camera for your home for occasional use. Rig the webcam for the task.





THINK OUT OF THE IDIOT BOX

The Second Anniversary issue of G&G is quite informative. With reference to "Backward Glance—Television", you are right that electronics technology is changing at a faster speed than population increase. Since TV and music systems need each other, there is an urgent need to have TV with a built-in music system to play gramophone records (these are coming back), cassettes, MP3, CDs and DVDs. With miniaturisation, perhaps a full music system can be fitted into a TV. TVs should also come with Internet access and perhaps have the DTH set-top box incorporated within it.

MAHESH KAPASI, NEW DELHI

ERRORS ARE ERRORS

You have an interesting magazine, but there are a couple of things that I disagree with on your Second Anniversary issue (July 2011):

- On Page 19, you wrote that the Samsung Galaxy S 2 uses Android v2.3 (Gingerbread), but on Page 72 you have mentioned its OS as Android v2.2 (Froyo).
- On page 40, you have mentioned the price of the Apple iPad 2 for 64GB with WiFi+3G as ₹16,900. This is not correct.
- Your game ratings seem higher than in any other dedicated gaming publication. I feel you should play these games first before giving them such ratings or visit reliable technology sites.

GAUTAM KADAN, ON EMAIL

Thanks for pointing out the errors. The Samsung Galaxy S II does indeed run on Android v2.3 and the price of the Apple iPad2 for 64 GB with WiFi+3G is ₹46,900 and not as mentioned. The errors are deeply regretted. As for the game ratings, we only rate products or games that we have actually got our hands on. We don't depend on websites for our ratings.



The articles in G&G are very helpful. I want to know whether the price you listed for the LG Smart TV 55 inches is correct. Is it really just ₹30,000?

SARAT BABU MURAHARISETTY, ON EMAIL

Red faced once again. The LG Smart TV 55 inches costs ₹1.7 lakh. The error is regretted.

GET RID OF DISCREPANCIES IN TV

With regard to your comparison of DTH to IPTV/Cable TV in the Second Anniversary issue, perhaps you failed to mention that there is a problem of pricing. There should be a single rate for all channels opted for, and not for a select few channels like in case of cable TV. TRAI should step in stop companies from arbitrarily removing certain channels from their services or raising the price of either the primary connection or the additional connection. And why do DTH operators withdraw free-to-air channels, especially those from Doordarshan?

M. KUMAR, NEW DELHI



LEGAL ASPECTS OF TECHNOLOGY

I request you to publish a page that talks about all the legal aspects of the Internet, for instance the names of websites that deal with law and legislations, or consumer affairs. You could also inform about apps for these that can be downloaded on our mobile phones.

CHETAN CHANDGOTHIA, ON EMAIL



YOUR POSTS



RAJESH TAJANPURE:
A very very happy 2nd Anniversary to G&G & its team. Once again your July edition was superb and congrats once again.

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Q I want a smartphone and I am considering the Samsung Galaxy SII as I fell in love with it after reading its review in G&G. But, I'm an iPhone fan. I'm willing to wait till September for the iPhone 5. I am really confused.

Ruby Puri, on email

GG The Samsung Galaxy SII is undoubtedly the best smartphone around. The dual core processor and extra bright display are amazing. As for the iPhone, we don't have a clue to when Apple will officially launch the 5th edition of the iPhone in India. Even if you ask a relative or friend to get the device for you from the US, the global warranty will not be valid in India till the time Apple launches it here. But considering the fact that Apple might just launch the iPhone 5 across all carriers, there are chances that the phone might be here soon. Also, there is no harm waiting till September. By then, the price of the Samsung Galaxy S II might also have come down a bit.

Q I want to buy a laptop. Which is the best laptop that I can get for under ₹32,000?

Prashant Tiwari, on email

GG There are quite a few available for that price. Our picks for entertainment are Lenovo G570, Sony Vaio E series A42EG and the Dell Inspiron 14. For business needs, go for the Dell Vostro 1015.

Q I am planning to buy a home-theatre system. I have a budget of ₹20,000. Please suggest a good system with all the latest features. It should sport an aesthetic design too.

Vijayadati Kogita, on email

GG With the funds at your disposal, you will get a DVD HTS that can upscale movies to Full HD resolution. Sony's DAV-DZ640, priced at ₹ 19,990, is a new top-of-the-line HTS that will suit your purpose well. It has all the latest features, including USB playback and, yes, it is good looking too. Later on if you feel you want better picture quality then you can add a Sony Blu-ray

Q I want an Android smartphone from among Sony Xperia X10, Sony Xperia Pro and Sony Xperia Ray because of its 16X zoom. Could you tell me about:

- The best among them?
- Tentative date/month of the launch of Xperia Pro and Xperia Ray in India?
- Does any other Android smartphone have zoom equal to or more than 8X? And is the 16X zoom in the above phones optical or digital zoom? What is the difference?

A. Daga, on email

GG If you are planning to buy a phone on the basis of its zoom, you may be thinking in a wrong direction. Be it in cameras or mobile, it is the optical zoom that is important. Here the lens moves to capture distant images. Digital zoom only magnifies a captured image. Also, you may need a tripod to use a 16x optical zoom. In any case, mobile phones come only with digital zoom. If you want to buy a good camera phone, check out the Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc. It comes with 8MP camera. Other options are Nokia N8, LG Optimus 2x, Samsung Galaxy S 2 and HTC Incredible S. See our report on smartphone camera performance on Page 41.

Of the phones you have mentioned, the Xperia X10 is a really old device now. There is no official confirmation about the launch date of the others.

disc player to the system.

Q What are the must-have features that I should consider when buying a laptop. Could you please help me with this information?

Ramesh Parihar, on email

GG Well, that depends on what your needs are. If you want the laptop for business, then security should be the top feature. If you want it for entertainment purposes, then a large hard drive and a bright screen are important. If gaming is your passion, then a fast processor and a good graphics card are needed. However, if you just want an overall best feature, then we would say it would have to be a good screen. That is the component you will be using the most—or looking at every time you use the laptop.

Q I want to buy a gaming console. I know that I have the option of getting either the PlayStation 3 or the Xbox 360. Which is a better choice?

Dilip PMK, on email

GG If you just want to enjoy games, then we recommend the Xbox 360 with the Kinect attachment. Playing games with your body as the controller is a lot of fun. That takes gaming to a whole new level. But if you are looking forward to watching good HD movies via your console as well, then the PS3 provides the better Blu-ray disc support. Pricewise, both cost around the same.

Q I want to buy a smartphone for under ₹ 15,000. It should preferably be an Android v2.3 and have a superb touch interface, though the camera quality doesn't matter much to me.

Vishal Verma, on email

GG You don't have many options if you want the Android v2.3. One that you can consider is the HTC Wildfire S. It is a compact smartphone with a 3.2-inch capacitive display and good touch interface. You can read the review of the HTC Wildfire S on Page 48.



HELP AT HAND

Having trouble with your laptop? Would like to boost your cell phone's capabilities? Want advice on what camera is best for your needs? Write to us with all your queries and we will have experts answering them.

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SMELL THE COFFEE — ON TV

Okay, TV has already got the third dimension of depth. Now it's time for the next act—smell. American and Korean researchers at the University of California have created an appliance that releases odours corresponding to the image you see on TV or your smartphone. Smell the pizza, the perfume, the ice-cream, even the malodorous shoes of the athlete that you see on screen. A small appliance fitted at the back releases the smell in an aqueous solution such as ammonia, which is heated by a thin metal wire in which an electric current passes and generates a gas. The idea is that the device will operate with cartridges, similar to a printer. So when the smell starts to get weak, you change the load. There are problems to be solved before this application become mainline. It is easier to issue more general odours (popcorn, flowers, coffee), but specific smells, say of a particular fragrance, would need a specific cartridge to be installed on the TV.

SOCIAL NETWORKING IN BLACK AND WHITE

So here is good news and bad news for those who are avid social networkers. With Facebook, Twitter, instant messaging, even email, now a part of our everyday life, it would be interesting to find out how we are being affected by these. First the positive news. Research by Pew Internet and American Life Project established that social networking creates more trusting people. A possible explanation: People on social networks are more willing to trust others because they interact with a larger number of people in a more diverse setting. Other findings: A person who uses Facebook several times a day has "more close relationships"; a Facebook user who accesses the site multiple times per day "receives more emotional support and companionship" than those who aren't on the site; Facebook helps users "retain high school ties and revives dormant relationships". Pew found that an average Facebook member has 229 Facebook friends.

And now to take the sheen off social networking. Researchers at Cambridge University claim to have established that family life is being disrupted as parents and kids are overwhelmed by the voluminous emails and social messaging updates they are handling each day. As a result, 43 of the children (aged 10 to 18) and 33 per cent of the adult Britons surveyed expressed desperation to cut down on the use of Twitter and Facebook. More than half of all families said a "technology-free" time is important and a third of parents said tech had disrupted family life.



PEEL THE CAR

A car can be a lemon, as anyone who has bought a used car only to find it stalling forever will tell you. But how about a new car that is a pineapple or a banana? Could be possible soon. Scientists at Sao Paulo University in Brazil have developed an effective way to use fibres from fruits and other plants in a new generation of plastics that are stronger, lighter and more eco-friendly than the plastics in use now. Professor Alcides Leao, talking about the research, said that the fibres used to reinforce the new plastics would come from seemingly delicate fruits such as bananas and pineapples that are actually super-strong. Car parts like dashboards, bumpers and side panels could well be made of nano-sized fruit fibres in the future. These plastics also have other advantages, like greater resistance to damage from heat, spilled gasoline, water and oxygen.

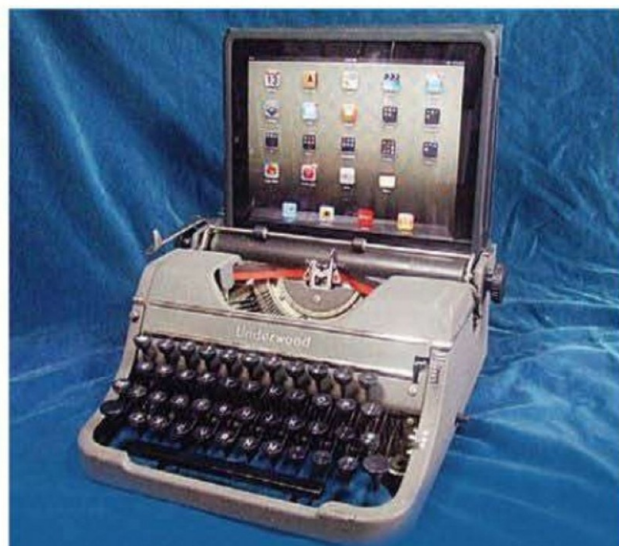


HI-DEF AND HI-GUZZLER

Many high-definition digital video recorders consume more power than the TVs they're plugged into, says a study by an American environmental group. Natural Resources Defence Council of San Francisco said that a typical US household with an HD receiver and an HD-DVR consumes around 446 kilowatt hours per year—more than the 416 kilowatts per year used by a standard-sized, energy-efficient refrigerator. Based on this, the researchers extrapolated that the 160 million DVR, cable and other set-top boxes in US homes consume \$3 billion of electricity per year. The devices draw about two thirds of that power when they're not in use because they consume electricity at nearly the same rate while sitting idle as they do when displaying or recording video content, the study found.

WHEN POWER AND FASHION GO HAND IN HAND

Never running out of power for your cell phones and iPods is a luxury. Now the word takes on an entirely new meaning with Diffus Design, a fashion studio, releasing a luxury handbag that is also a portable power station. Using one hundred small solar chips as embroidery elements on the bag, the Solar Handbag generates enough electricity to charge a mobile device and a powerful lithium ion battery hidden in a small compartment inside. At night, opening the bag activates optical fibres attached to the inside of the bag that give a diffuse glow and assist in the search for keys, purse or other objects of vital importance.



OLD KEY TO MODERNITY

Many people still feel nostalgic about the clackety-clack of the typewriter that adorned all offices till the computer took over the world. Perhaps Jack Zylkin was in eternal love with his Smith-Corona or Remington, but he decided that he had to bring that old machine back into use. His USBTypewriter is the result. Using a USB adapter, any old fashioned manual typewriters can be used as a keyboard for a USB-capable computer, such as a PC, Mac or a tablet. The USB Typewriter can type all letters, numerals and punctuation marks. It also includes shift, space and return carriage. Many non-standard keys, such as F1-F12, esc, ctrl, and so on are available with a special toggle key. Visit usbtypewriter.com for the how-to.



Launch Pad

A MONTHLY WINDOW TO THE MOST RECENT LAUNCHES



SONY HDR PJ50

After showcasing this Handycam at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas earlier this year, Sony has finally brought it to the Indian shores. With 220 GB hard disk drive, this Handycam comes with an in-built, high contrast projector that can throw up to 60 inches from a distance of just 3 metres. For the perfect playback experiences, it also has Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound and clear phase stereo speakers that produce true-to-life sound. Other features include 7.1 MP sensor, 12X optical zoom and full HD recording capabilities.

Price: ₹ 59,990



LOGITECH N200

Having a cooling pad for a notebook is a good idea but it does consume electricity. For those who fear that cooling pads means extra money on energy needs, Logitech has come up with an efficient cooling pad that is powered via the USB port. It has two fan speeds for adjusting air flow as per need and a padded base with an air-mesh fabric. The slim design and light weight makes it portable enough to be ferried around easily.

Price: ₹ 1,595





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SAMSUNG HT-D5550

Samsung has recently added to its home theatre entertainment systems with the launch of its new HT-D5550 HTS. Packed with pioneering features, including 3D Sound Plus, Crystal Amplifier Plus, Smart Hub, AllShare and Built-in Wireless LAN, the HT-D5550's superior sound quality complements the breadth of content that people watch in their home—streaming 3D, 2D and HD content. This 5.1 channel speaker system has a total sound output of 1000 Watts and comes with four stylish tallboy and a wireless rear speaker. It has a built-in Karaoke feature as well.

Price: ₹ 49,900



Hip street HSM-13

Audio, video and wireless accessory brand Hip Street has introduced a new notebook mouse. The HSM 13 has an ergonomic design for a comfortable grip and is compatible with both desktops and notebooks. Optimised to be used by left-handed people, it can work on any glass surface. Available in multiple colours this optical mouse comes with a 1.35 metre cable length.

Price: ₹ 349



TITAN HTSE

The leading watch brand in the Indian market has launched a new range of futuristic watches. Labeled as HTSE (High Tech Self Energized), these watches can charge themselves from any source of light. The quick start function activates the watch from the dead state within 20 seconds and the sleep mode increases the life of the watch. It comes with other features such as over charge prevention, time set warning function and end of life indicator as well. The collection is built of 10 watches

Specs: 4-inch display; 5 MP camera; 2 GB internal storage; 32 GB memory, expandable; EDGE, 3G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth; 109 gm; 1500 mAh battery

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ZEN M72

Affordable phones are not the best looking. Conversely, good-looking phones come at a price. Striking a balance between the two, Zen Mobile has come up with an affordable dual SIM phone that looks good too. The M72 has a 2.4-inch coloured display along with a 1.3 MP camera. And the 1800 mAh battery has a standby time of 40 days. Other features include Bluetooth, music player, sound recorder, dual LED torch, 3.5 mm jack, anti theft mobile tracker and private data protection.

Price: ₹ 1,749



LENOVO IDEACENTRE A320

Another device to hop on to the slim category of electronics is Lenovo's latest all-in-one PC. The A320 is just 18.5 mm thin and looks ravishing. It is a compact, space-saving PC aimed at entertainment or students and also for those wanting a second PC for their home. Equipped with an ultraslim, double shell design and a wide 21.5-inch LED screen, this stylish Lenovo IdeaCentre A320 is powered by 2nd Generation Intel Core i3/i5 processor. It also has 8 GB DDR 3 RAM and 750 GB hard drive. Bluetooth and a 7-in-1 card reader is also integrated

Price: ₹ 50,990

CONTEST



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AMKETTE FLASH LINK TRANSFERS, SYNCs AND SHARES A CD/DVD DRIVE, INTERNET CONNECTION AND FILES BETWEEN TWO COMPUTERS WITHOUT USING A ROUTER AND NETWORK. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING AND WIN THREE AMKETTE FLASH LINKS.

- 1 Amkette Black Diamond wireless desktop works on which long range wireless interface?
 - a) 3.1 GHz
 - b) 2.4 GHz
 - c) 1.8 GHz
- 2 Amkette Flash Link is compatible with which operating system?
 - a) Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7
 - b) Snow Leopard
 - c) Ubuntu
- 3 Amkette Link supports which USB interface?
 - a) USB 1.0
 - b) USB 2.0
 - c) USB 3.0

ANSWERS OF THE JULY AMKETTE CONTEST

The Flash Link winners are:
V.V. MURALI, CHENNAI
RUPAL DESAI, SURAT
R. MEENAKSHI, MUMBAI

1.(c); 2.(b); 3.(a)

Send your entries to contestgg@gmail.com or mail them to G&G, F-26 Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001.

The last date for receiving entries is Aug 10, 2011.

The winners will be announced in the Sept 2011 issue of G&G.

In case of more than three winning entries, winners will be decided through lots. Requests for cash in lieu of prizes will not be entertained. The contest is not open to any relatives or friends or affiliates of the India Today Group.

Winner of HCL ME Tablet for July

CHETAN RAO, Pune

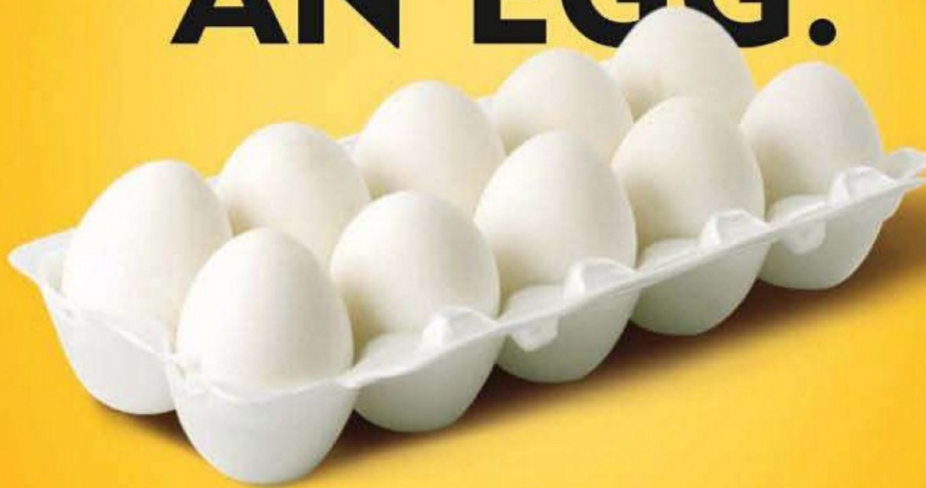
Answers: 1 b, 2 c, 3 a, 4 c, 5 c

Winner of VU 32-inch TV for July

ALKA K, Kochi

Answers: 1 a, 2 b, 3 c, 4 a, 5 a

IT TAKES A MOTHER TO BEAT AN EGG.



As a protein source, eggs are second only to the very best in nature – mother's milk. See it for yourself below. The higher the Biological Value (BV) of a protein, the better is its quality. BV lesser than 70 is considered poor protein, while 100 is the maximum it can be. Besides, eggs contain all the essential amino acids in the right proportion, making them more useful.

Jo ande roz khaate hain, woh hatte-katte hote hain.

Biological Value of Different Proteins

Source of Protein	BV
Mother's Milk	100.0
Whole Egg	93.7
Cow Milk	87.4
Chicken	82.0
Buffalo Milk	81.5
Fish	76.0
Mutton	74.0
Soyabeans	72.8
Rice (Polished)	64.0
Wheat (Whole)	64.0
Corn	60.0
Beans, dry	58.0



**NATIONAL
EGG CO-ORDINATION
COMMITTEE**

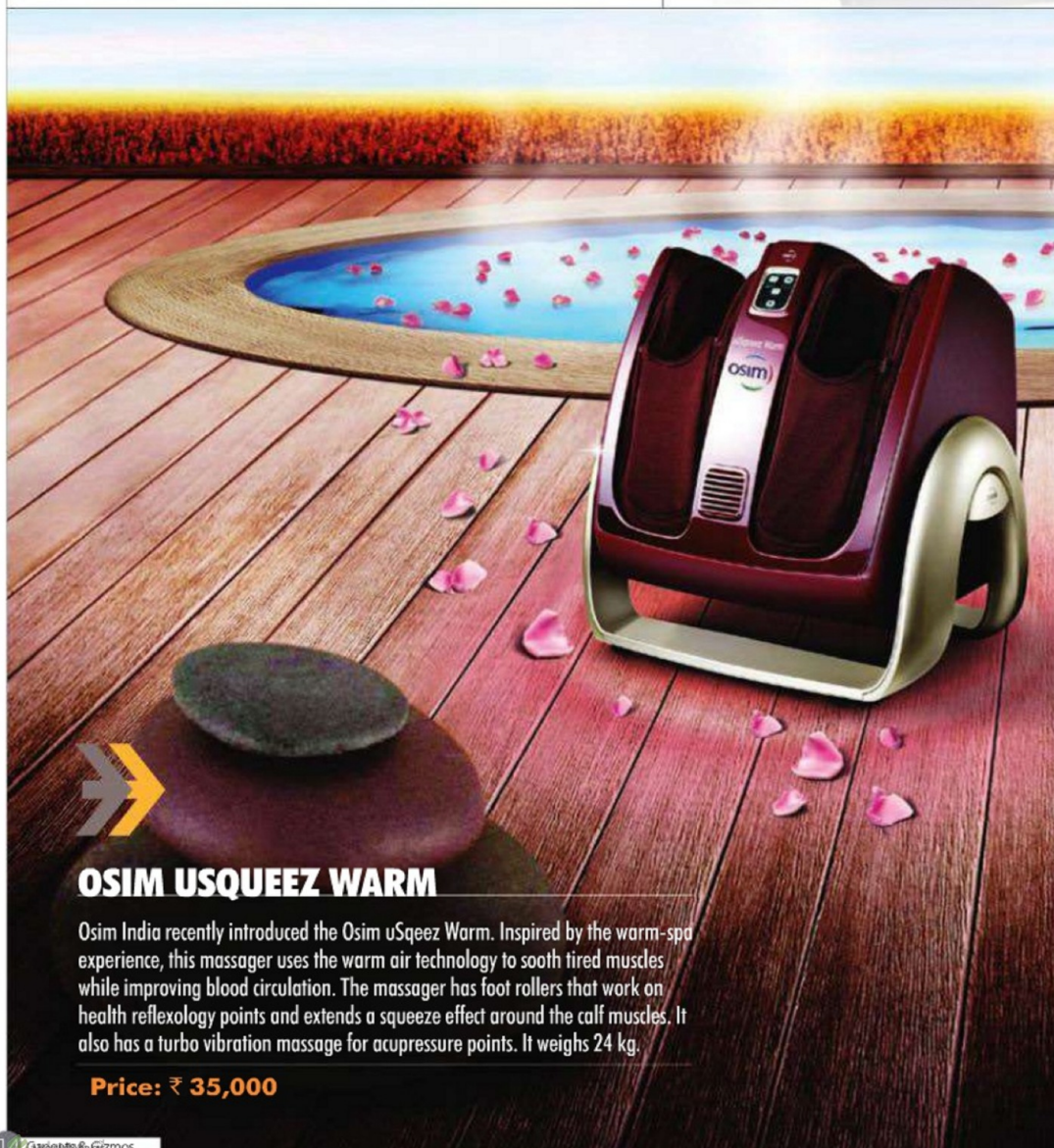
SUNDAY HO YA MONDAY, ROZ KHAO ANDE.



MOTOROLA XOOM TABLET 3G

The wait is finally over. Motorola's most talked about tablet is here. The configuration includes 1GHz dual-core processor and 1 GB of RAM. This tablet showcases Android's Honeycomb operating system with its interactive, customisable home screen and moveable widgets. All this and more on a beautiful 10.1-inch touch screen that can display 1280x800 widescreen HD pictures. HDMI output is also supported by this tablet that enables it to connect to any HDTV to exhibit high resolution pictures on it. A Wi-Fi only version of the tablet is also available for ₹ 32,990

Price: ₹ 39,990



OSIM USQUEEZ WARM

Osim India recently introduced the Osim uSqueez Warm. Inspired by the warm-spa experience, this massager uses the warm air technology to soothe tired muscles while improving blood circulation. The massager has foot rollers that work on health reflexology points and extends a squeeze effect around the calf muscles. It also has a turbo vibration massage for acupressure points. It weighs 24 kg.

Price: ₹ 35,000



LAVA M30

Lava Mobiles has recently launched a dual SIM music phone. Claiming to have SRS Wow HD Technology and Yamaha PA speakers, it can support two GSM connections. A candy bar device with a 2.2-inch display, the phone has metallic looks. Auto call recording, Snaptu, Opera Mini web browser, earphone sharing hub and a 3.5 mm jack with earphone sharing hub are a few features on which the company is pushing this phone in the market

Price: ₹ 4,499



HARMAN KARDON BDS HTS

From the factories of Harman Kardon comes a new range of Blu-ray home theatre system to blast your ears with. This one is a 5.1 channel surround sound system which combines the functionality of a combined A/V receiver and Blu-ray Disc player and loudspeakers in one easy-to-use sleek unit. Video and audio performance is exemplary from the wide variety of supported input sources that includes TV, Blu-ray Disc, DVD, CD, radio, and USB as well as iPod and iPhone. The supplied remote can also be easily programmed to control your TV, cable box, satellite tuner and other device

Price: ₹ 59,990



VIO700 PHONE SANITIZER

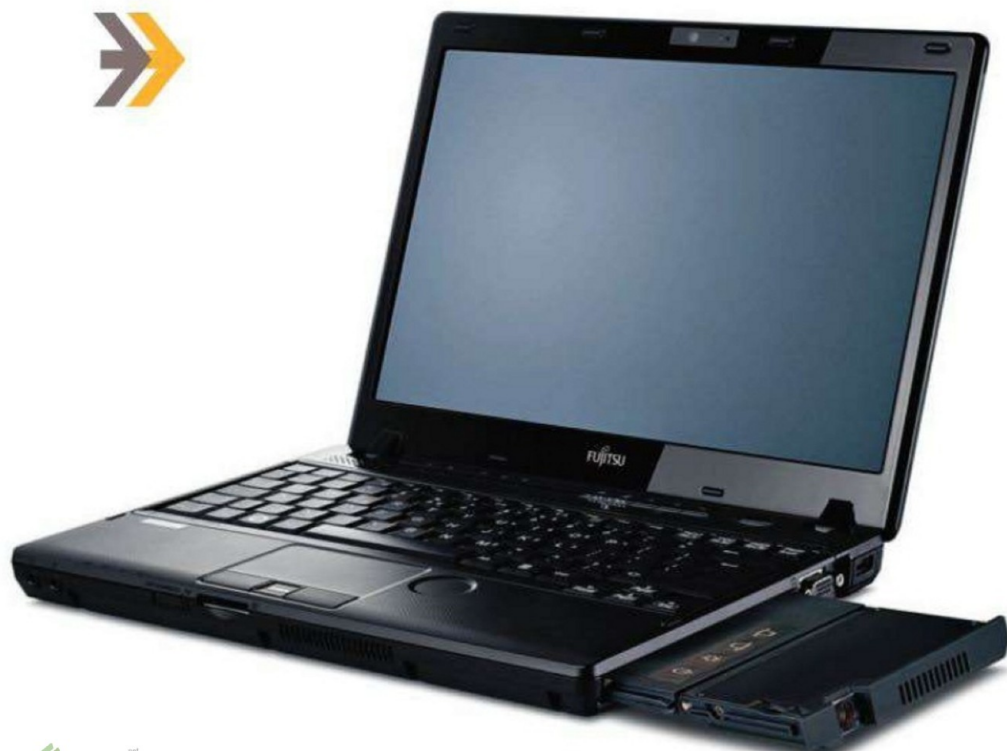
Violight has finally brought its sanitisers for mobile handsets to India. You insert your phone into the dock of the sanitiser and cover it. Put it on and its ultraviolet light starts working. After three minutes, you can be assured that your phone is 99 per cent free of germs. How's that for a really clean, healthy phone?

Price: ₹ 3,500

FUJITSU LIFEBOOK P771 WITH BAY PROJECTOR

Talk about innovation. Most of us connect our laptops to an external projector, but Fujitsu took it a step further and has infused a projector within its new laptop. The projector comes as a separate accessory for P771. This is the first of its kind projector, which can be inserted in the modular bay of a notebook. The Bay Projector converts the LIFEBOOK into a fully-equipped mobile office. It gives an advantage of not carrying the cables around as well. This 210g light weight projector works almost on every surface. It consumes less power, quieter and is compatible with Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7.

Price: TBA



JABRA STONE 2

The award winning Bluetooth headset from Jabra, the Stone 2, is a beauty. One of its kind, it can be operated through voice. Using voice commands, one can make a call, answer, end, redial, ignore and even reject a call. Available in the colour variants of Black (leather finish, discreet, as per user preference), White (gloss finish) it is priced on the higher side.

Price: ₹ 7,999

THE NEW VISION

LG 42LW6500

Price: ₹ 99,900

Specs: 42-inch LED;

Full HD passive 3D;

HDMI, Component, Composite ports;

Smart function; 20W RMS sound;

Motion-sensing remote;

140 W power consumption;

16.2 kg with stand.



WHY WE FELL FOR IT

Lower price, lighter glasses, vibrant 3D, and not to forget, a motion-sensing remote control.



Active 3D VS Passive 3D

LG HAS JUNKED THE EXPENSIVE ACTIVE SHUTTER 3D GLASSES AND OPTED FOR THE PASSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN ITS NEW RANGE OF 3D TELEVISION SETS.

BY SULABH PURI



TV sets with 3D capability have not really set the market on fire. The main reason for this is the

high cost of the 3D glasses with active shutter technology and the even higher price of the TV sets. Another reason was the paucity of 3D content. Both these issues have been sorted to an extent by LG. The company has just released its new smart TV set that will ease the price burden and also add the third dimension to 2D channels. LG is the second in the country after Samsung to adopt technology that changes 2D signal into 3D.

But what LG gives the user in addition is low-cost 3D glasses. The new range of LED 3D TV called LW6500 does not use active shutter glasses. Instead, it has the better, lighter and wallet-friendly passive-shutter glasses. Unlike the heavier active-shutter 3D glasses that weigh between 80 and 200 gm, the passive ones weigh just 16 gm, which is like having nothing perched on your nose. Also, at most a pair of glasses comes with the pack of an active-shutter TV. In contrast, the LW6500 comes with four companion glasses for the whole family.

One big advantage that the passive 3D glasses has over its active counterpart is in colour reproduction. The original colours are

maintained even when 3D is turned on. In active-shutter technology, there is marked darkening of hues.

The LW6500 can change any 2D stream whether from a console, media player or a regular set-top box into 3D feed. The 3D effect is quite nice, especially when watching HD channels and HD content. Regular standard-definition channels aren't so impressive. The image is vivid with no ghosting. The frame rates stay stable even for high-paced action scenes. For a slim TV set, the onboard audio is not bad either.

Apart from 3D, this TV also possesses smart applications that let you browse the Internet. There is plenty of Indian content to browse through as well. One can surf for movies, pictures and music from the Net. Users can also stream media files from any laptop or PC using the "smart share" option. Another smart accessory has been added to the TV set that gives it quite an edge over others. Its Magic Motion remote is the secondary remote that aids the user in managing and browsing content using motion sensors within the remote. This helps avoid the hassles of going through multiple buttons and arrow keys on the screen. Overall, this 42 inch is a piece of 3D art worth hanging on your bedroom or living room wall.

WITH GAMING CATCHING ON IN INDIA, IT IS BECOMING AN ALTERNATIVE AVENUE OF URBAN ENTERTAINMENT. AND TO THE DELIGHT OF GAMERS, EVERY MONTH WE SEE THE LAUNCH OF NEW GAMES, GAMING DEVICES, PC EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ACCESSORIES. HERE ARE SOME EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

GAME

BY SULABH PURI IN LOS ANGELES

In 2010, over 500 million games were sold worldwide. Figures tell us that by 2014 the gaming industry will be generating revenues of over \$44 billion. Now that is a lot of money. This is why we see so many launches happening every month across various game platforms. And for Urban India gaming is now an alternative source of entertainment. And while the good old PC remains the first choice for gaming, the weapons of mass entertainment are fast becoming the gaming consoles—already Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3 are huge favourites.

The launch of the motion-sensing Kinect saw a big growth in sales of the Xbox and the accessory. This was bound to happen as the company had made the console controller obsolete, with the player's body the new controller. Is it a gimmick or does it really work? Well, you will have to use Kinect to believe it does work as claimed. The early doubts were about

whether there would be enough games developed to make Kinect worthwhile. Wait till you get your hands on the next generation of Kinect games for the answer.

The PS3 also adapted to gesture control and has gone the Nintendo Wii way. The introduction of the Move controller helped Sony boost sales. This bulbous wand controller is more precise than the Wii-mote. There are plenty of Move games available that exploit Move's gesture power. 3D is also making its way into gaming. PS3 is now 3D-ready and is compatible with any 3D-ready Sony TV. Now if only 3D came without glasses, we'd be in gaming heaven. Sony has also launched the new version of PSP called the PSP Vita. And what do you get when you combine PSP features with a mobile phone? You get Sony Ericsson's Xperia Play. It is a mobile phone version of the PSP that is already out in the market.

What takes the ball and runs is Nintendo's 3DS—





N

an upgrade to its handheld gaming device, the DS. The new gizmo's screen facilitates depth-of-field viewing. If you play with it, you will probably find that the 3D isn't perfect—but look at the positive side: it does not require any glasses for the 3D effect to be experienced.

Gaming has also shifted base to other platforms—like tablets. Made popular by Apple with its iPad, tablets are the perfect gaming destinations. They are right for the lap for casual gamers. Like apps for mobile phones, thousands of games are being developed for the tablet platform every month and these are not just the arcade games. Game manufacturers like EA are rerigging their hot-selling titles—such as *Need for Speed* and *Fifa*—for this platform.

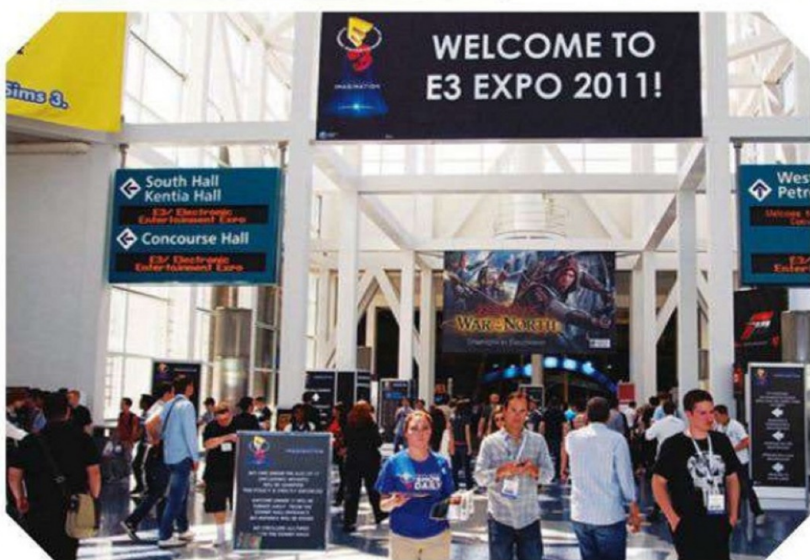
With games on PCs, consoles, hand-helds, mobile phones and tablets, gaming is poised for a big leap.

LARA CROFT:
TOMB RAIDER

Image courtesy: SQUARE ENIX, EIDOS

BEST @ E3 2011

Glitz, glamour and games—this was the flavour at this year's E3 convention in Los Angeles, the biggest gaming fair in the world. It all started with Microsoft's impressive press conference a day before the convention started. Present at the event were the who's who of the gaming arena. Thousands watched as Microsoft honchos launched new games for the Kinect and Xbox 360 and showed integration with Xbox Live accounts. To make searching simpler, Microsoft Bing will also be integrated with your Xbox Live accounts. But what interested us most were the Kinect games.





These have definitely moved a notch up from the first games such as *Kinect Sports* and *Kinect Adventures*. The news from Los Angeles is that soon we will be able to play hardcore action games such as *Tom Clancy Ghost Recon* without the controller. You will use hand gestures and voice commands, yes you read that right, voice commands, to play the game. You can fire weapons with hand movements, zoom scopes and change weapons with a few voice or hand gestures. Another action game that will ride the Kinect will be *Star Wars*. *Kinect Sports* and *Dance Central* will also have their second editions. And chil-

dren will love this one—Disney is going to bring Disneyland for the world on the Kinect platform. This means that you will soon be able to roam around the fantasy park and meet all your favourite Disney cartoon characters.

All this was fun, but the crowd went mad when Microsoft execs demoed the trailers of *Gears of War 3*, *Forza Motorsport 4* and *Halo HD*. The first part of the extremely popular *Halo* is making a comeback with new, improved hi-resolution graphics. There was, expectedly, a mad rush at the convention grounds that had every major maker from the gaming and peripherals industry. Hollywood stars also made their appearances and tried their hands at the new games. Serpentine lines stretched out in front of the stall, with everyone wanting to get their hands on the fresh offerings games and the new gaming devices like the PS Vita and the Nintendo 3DS.

Microsoft's stall was popular with the people, who crowded its Kinect pods, where they played some of the cool demos of the upcoming games on Kinect. However, the main attraction was the lifesize figure of *Gears of War*'s Marcus Fenix. Sony and Nintendo, the two other major console makers, too attracted crowds. Both showcased their new consoles. Capcom, Square Enix, WB Games, Ubisoft and 2K Games put up good shows too. Popular games on the game floor included *Deus Ex Human Revolution*, *Dance Central 2*, *Hitman Absolution*, *Lord of the Rings: War in the North*, *Ultimate Fighting Championship*, *Bioshock: Infinite*, *Forza Motorsports 4*, *Street Fighter Vs Taken*, *Need for Speed: The Run*, *Uncharted 3* and *Battlefield 3*. These were attractive offerings, but it seemed like the masses were really salivating over two well-awaited games—*Batman Arkham City* and *Gears of War 3*. These were easily the crowd favourites.

The glamour did not stop here. Men and women dressed as game characters, combatants on real tanks of World War II vintage, and lumbering robots were everywhere. E3 2011 was quite an experience—and will continue to be talked about, having forecast what is in store for the coming months.

EXQUISITE GAMES @ E3 WILL SOON HIT SHOP SHELVES



➔ GEARS OF WAR 3

The final chapter is the one that is going to be the deadliest. It will be one game worth all the waiting. There are a lot of mean bosses in the game, so watch out.



➔ UNCHARTED 3: DRAKE'S DECEPTION

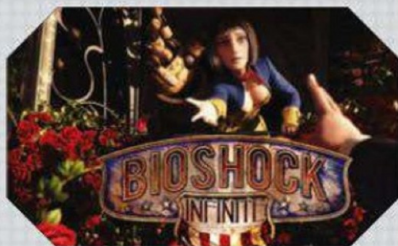
A game that is soon going to hit the PS3 screens. Third instalment of the popular game that has swept many PlayStation gamers off their feet.



➔ BATMAN ARKHAM CITY

If you liked *Arkham Asylum* with its neat graphics, you are bound to love *Arkham City*. The Joker is up to it again and this time Batman has his hands full with other villains such as Two-Faced and Penguin.

EXQUISITE GAMES @ E3 WILL SOON HIT SHOP SHELVES



BIOSHOCK INFINITE

E3 2011 saw a lot of new episodes of already famous games. One that is soon going to hit your gaming screens is *BioShock Infinite*, a game most critics and gamers are looking forward to because of its superb graphics, game physics and story line.



HITMAN ABSOLUTION

The assassin is back. This time he has acquired some new moves that will keep you hooked. The graphics are pure bliss and the sound is candy for the ears. This is a game that a true gamer will not dare resist.



FORZA MOTORSPORTS 4

It got the most awards for being the best racing game at E3 and we agree. With an exquisite range of over 100 cars, this game is what every racing enthusiast would want. It just might be Kinect-ready as well.

EXCITING GEAR @ E3

RAZER STAR WARS EDITION HEADSET

Razer showcased some cool gear. One was the Star Wars headset. It has 5.1 channel virtual surround sound. Sadly people could not give them a go as they were in glass enclosures. But they were attractive to look at.



NINTENDO WII U

This is Nintendo's new controller. But don't get your credits cards—it'll only hit the stores some time in 2012. Wii U has a 6.2-inch screen in the middle that lets you play multi and single player games using the TV and the controller—which is the USP of this game controller.



NYKO ZOOM

This was one of the hottest attractions as the E3. What these spectacles for your Kinect console do is that it reduces the play area for Kinect by 40 per cent. You won't need the required 6 ft of space that the Kinect required when you use the Nyko Zoom. It will be out in a couple of month.



N-CONTROL AVENGER

Avenger is a controller that gives you the edge in professional gaming. It is a pad cover with specially designed tentacles and buttons that reduce finger lag and increase response time. The pad is available for both Xbox360 and PS3 controller.



NINTENDO 3DS

3DS has twin screens like the earlier DS. However, 3DS has a 3D upper screen that doubles the fun. The 3D is OK, and you don't need to wear any geeky glasses. There are plenty of game choices, including our favourite *Mario*.



PS VITA

PSP has been the favourite handheld gaming device for almost a decade. Now Sony has introduced the successor, PS Vita. It has dual analogue sticks, OLED touch screen interface, Wi-Fi, 3G, GPS, motion sensor and above all, two cameras, one in front and one in the rear. Users can also join the PS community and interact with members and stay updated on new games and happenings.



BATMAN ARKHAM CITY

(LAUNCH: OCT 2011)

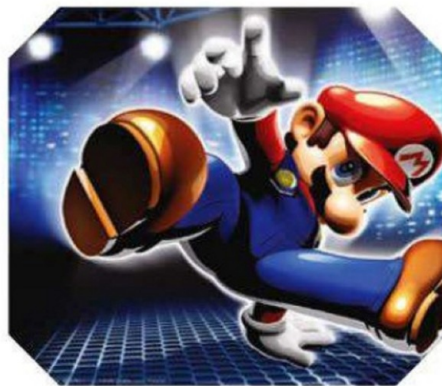
After *Arkham Asylum* we had high expectations from this game and we were not disappointed. The game is breathtaking. Character details are perfect, the elaborate city views are awesome and the stunts that Batman carries out are remarkable. As Batman, you can take down 20 bad guys at one blow. That's action on steroids.



FORZA MOTORSPORTS 4

(LAUNCH: OCT 2011)

Forza has always been a rewarding series for racing gamers. With version 4, it has leaped to the next level. A lot of new cars have been added, the graphics have become even better, car handling and assists have been improved too. There were many fighting for the top racing game spot, but *Forza* is the undisputed topper.



SUPER MARIO 3DS

(LAUNCH: TBA)

Ah, the game that we have been playing since we were young kids is soon going to be available in 3D on the Nintendo 3DS handheld. It is a fun game and making Mario run in 3D is quite nice. There are a lot of puzzles in the game so you need to save those much-needed Mario lives.

HANDS ON @ E3

GEARS OF WAR 3: BROTHERS TILL THE END

(LAUNCH: SEP 2011)

Here is a game in development that we've heard a lot about. A night with the game at Los Angeles left us hungry for more. The graphics are top notch, the audio is brilliant and the enemy swarms are super tough—just the way we like it.



KINECT SPORTS SEASON 2

(LAUNCH: DEC 2011)

The lovely sports party game for Kinect which launched last year is going to be back in its all-new avatar. New sports have been added to the roster—like golf and American football. We enjoyed playing both the games, but then we ran out of time—and breath.



KINECT STAR WARS

(LAUNCH: LATE 2011)

Till now we had our controllers, keyboard or mouse as our allies. Now we need to depend on our quick hand and body movements to kill those wretched beings on the dark side. The game is a lot of fun without controllers. Hopefully one will not exhausted too soon.



WELL PLAYED

REVIEWS OF THE LATEST GAMES

FOREVER? WE WOULD SAY NEVER

We have been waiting a very long time for *Duke Nukem* and when the wait ended, there was just disappointment. The game is no fun at all. Most look forward to some raunchy fun in this game, but it's less action and more words. There are just not enough bullets flying. In most of the simple missions, Duke is just running and jumping around doing very little else.

It seems the makers forgot to put some aliens in these levels. Or is it a bug? We played the PC version so we didn't have problems with the frame rates, but we have heard this is a problem on the consoles. The graphics on the PC are just ok, nothing to compare with what other action games offer. The world and object edges are jagged. Sound is ok too, with little that excites. All of this is accompanied by a not-so-funny humour. You do get to drive a monster truck in the game only to find oh so often that you've run out of gas. There is more running around to find fuel than driving the truck. The online mode fails to excite as well. Overall the game is not quite what we had expected.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

You can give this one a miss.



**DUKE NUKEM
FOREVER**

FOR PC

Price: ₹ 499



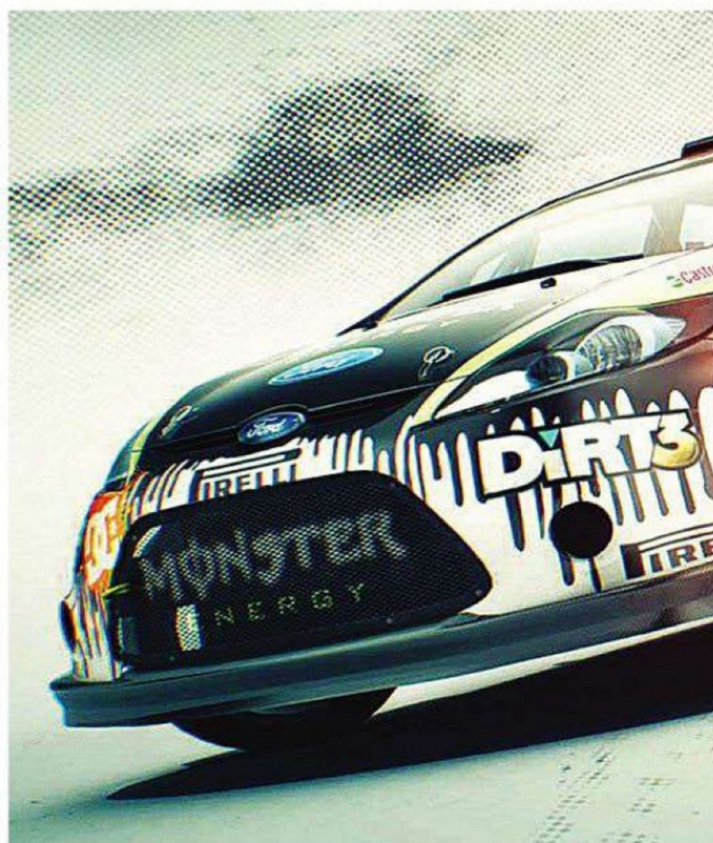
LEAN MEAN GREEN MACHINE

The Green Lantern might be a new character on the movie screens but it is an old one in the world of comics. *Rise of the Manhunters* makes it to our Xbox 360 screens, where we play the main character of Hal Jordan, better known as the Green Lantern. The game starts at a time when Green Lanterns' planet is under attack from man-hunting droids. Hal and other Green Lanterns quickly go on the offensive to try rid their planet of these wretched beings.

We grabbed a copy of the game for the Xbox 360. We must say the graphics are quite nice on the platform. The story is entertaining and keeps you on your toe most of the times. However, as you progress, the game becomes a little predictable and repetitive. Some puzzles and flying missions add a bit of zing but then they are few and far between. The bosses are easy to kill, and, with the right combinations of keys, can be taken down faster.

Green Lantern has lot of weapons and moves in his armoury. The basic hits include sword combos and fist thumps. But if you really want to get going, you can bring out weapons such as mini chain guns, spikes, maces and even a jet fighter. But beware, all these use up your green power—so take care to keep your power bar filled and you will kill swarms of enemy coming your way. The cut scenes are nice and explain a lot of the story. The game can also be played in tandem with another player by your side. Sadly this cannot be played with an online friends—which could have been a lot of gory fun.

The game is 3D-ready and can be enabled on any compatible 3D TV. The sound is good and keeps you involved in the action. The game isn't short by any means and keeps you hooked for hours. This first instalment of the *Green Lantern* game is worth playing if you do not mind repetitive fighting stage after stage.





GREEN LANTERN: RISE OF THE MANHUNTERS

FOR XBOX 360

Price: ₹ 2,499

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Play if you don't mind the cyclic shooting.



RIDE YOUR LUCK

The *Dirt* series has always been a rewarding one. We quite liked the second edition of *Dirt* and now they are out with the third one, which is better than its predecessors. This game is just what the racing doctor ordered. It is nonstop fun from the word go. There is an extensive career mode that will keep you occupied for long hours. In the new gymkhana mode, you can perform stunts with your car. Everything from donuts to high flying moves can be performed.

The graphics of the game are very good and the world details have been extensively worked upon. If you are familiar with racing games you would not have problems handling this game. If you are new to the genre then we suggest you first turn on the race assists and get rid of them once you get the hang of the gaming. Getting rid of them will get you more points when racing. The flash back mode works just like the

rewind mode in *Forza Motorsports*. These are helpful when you meet an accident in the game—you simply rewind to the spot where the car was still intact. You get up to five flash backs per race. There is an elaborate online mode as well in which you can play "capture the flag" and "crush your opponent" modes. *Dirt 3* is something you won't regret buying.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

A must-play for racing enthusiasts.



DIRT 3

FOR PC

Price: ₹ 599

HAPPENS IN LA LA LAND

There are quite a few games out there trying to replicate the *Grand Theft Auto* style of gameplay and so far few have come close to it. *L.A. Noire* from the makers of *GTA*, Rockstar Games, comes close. You play Phelps—a police detective in the 1940s, living the American dream. The game is quite exciting from the beginning. You get to investigate a lot of cases and on your way collar a number of suspects and subject them to questioning.

The unique thing about this game is that you have to investigate and ask questions in a realistic manner. Initially you will be in the training mode where hints will be given to you. You have to see the facial expressions of the suspects and ask them questions or browbeat them. If you can read their expressions correctly, you will crack the case. The graphics of the game are beautiful and very realistic as a lot of facial detailing has been given priority. You can roam in the free world and drive cars and shoot bad guys every now and then. The chases are good but occasionally you find yourself in a rut. The obstacles do not matter much when chasing—you just need to run in the right direction and Phelps jumps, swoops and slides on his own. You can look forward to playing *L.A. Noire*.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

If you liked *Mafia* and *GTA*, you will love *L.A. Noire*



L.A. NOIRE

FOR XBOX 360

Price: ₹ 2,499



INFAMOUS 2

FOR PS3

Price: ₹ 2,490





VIRTUA TENNIS 4

FOR PS3

Price: ₹ 2,499

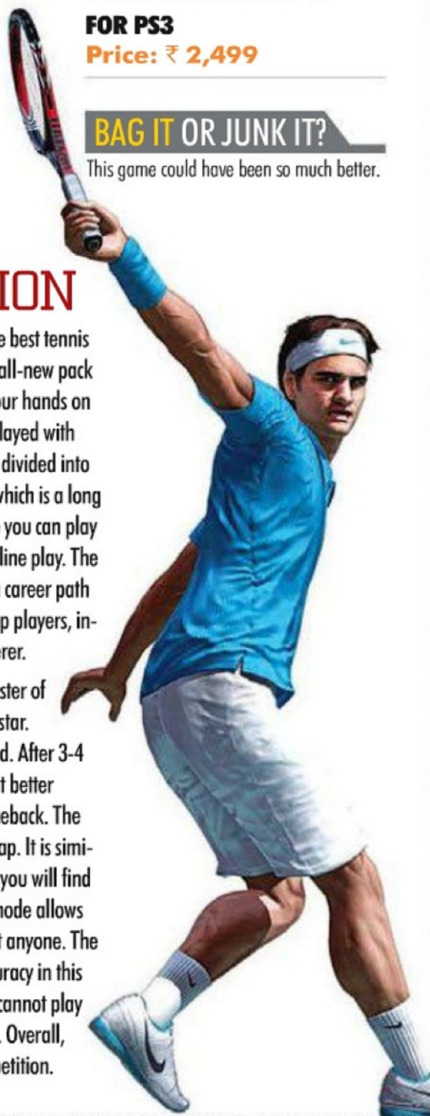
BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

This game could have been so much better.

FACES COMPETITION

Virtua Tennis has been one of the best tennis games. Now it is available in an all-new pack in its fourth adaptation. We got our hands on the PS3 copy which can also be played with the Move controller. The game is divided into three parts—campaign mode, which is a long career mode; arcade play, where you can play with the Move controller; and online play. The campaign mode sets you off on a career path to take down the current set of top players, including our favourite Roger Federer.

You can choose from the latest roster of players or create your own superstar. However, the game looks a bit old. After 3-4 years of absence, one would want better graphics and technique on a comeback. The ladder system is replaced by a map. It is similar to a strategy game and often you will find yourself stuck on it. The arcade mode allows you to play non-stop and against anyone. The sound is nice and the Move's accuracy in this mode is excellent. However, you cannot play with the stick in the online mode. Overall, this game is fun but it faces competition.



SOCIAL GAMES

TOP 20 GAMES PEOPLE PLAY ONLINE

1. Cityville (Facebook)
2. Farmville (Facebook)
3. Mafia Wars (Facebook)
4. Texas Poker (Facebook)
5. Angry Birds (Chrome browser)
6. Pacman (Facebook)
7. 3D Pool (ibibo)
8. Scrabble (Facebook)
9. Tambola (Zapak)
10. Teen Patti (ibibo)
11. Bejeweled (Zapak)
12. Contra (Facebook)
13. Sudoku (Chrome browser)
14. Rickshaw Racing (Zapak)
15. Diamond Dash (Facebook)
16. Crazy Taxi (Facebook)
17. Super Mario (Facebook)
18. Galli Cricket (ibibo)
19. Zapak Chess (Zapak)
20. Treasure Isle (Facebook)



ANOTHER ELECTRIC EXPERIENCE

Seems like this is the season of sequels. Here is another in the form of *Infamous 2*, where Cole McGrath is back with his electrifying action. The game picks off from the last edition and shows you a bigger and meaner world. It all starts off nice and easy, but some blemishes start showing up. The graphics are much better than the first part but the camera angles are not. When combating in tight spaces the third person camera goes for a toss and all you see is a wall behind which you are combating the foe. Thankfully there are not too many of these in the game. However, the fights can be frustrating after a couple of levels. There are endless ranks of the enemy that come your way and the fights just do not end. But here is the good part, the physics system has also improved. You get to slide and swing from electric poles, electric wires and scale any building with ease. The game is built around the mortality rate. If you help people, you evolve into a good person, if not then it's a downward journey. But somehow this system does not work. In many levels, even when you kill the enemy and innocent alike, you still get good karma. Hmm, strange. Looking past that, the game itself is a load of fun. *Infamous 2* can both fly high and exasperate at the same time and this is a mix that many wouldn't like.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Give it a go if you do not mind the bugs.



ARMED AND DANGEROUS

WITH THESE GAMING WEAPONS BY YOUR SIDE YOU ARE SURE TO WIN ANY BATTLE.

RAZER MAMBA MOUSE

(₹ 7,999)

This is one of the best gaming mice available in India. Gamers like to show off their gear and this mouse gives them the perfect opportunity to do that. Mamba not only scores well on the style quotient, but it is very precise in the gaming arena as well. Powered by a 4G dual sensor working at 6400 dpi, this mouse gives extreme accuracy to the users. It also has two programmable micro buttons above the right click. But the feature the endears is its wireless and wired compatibilities. Gamers can plug in the wire if the battery is low and never stop playing. The battery lasts for up to 16 hours on a single charge.



NVIDIA GEFORCE GTX590 3GB

(₹ 44,250)

NVIDIA's GTX 590 is a premium-range card that is specially built for gaming. Made for PCs, this card can do a lot—make the latest games run at the highest settings, display beautiful graphics and display content in Full HD. On the 3DMark 11 test, it scored 9000 points. The credit for this superb performance must go to the dual 512 Core GPUs on board. NVIDIA has taken special care in the cooling department as well. You can rarely hear the fan noise and cleaning of the card is an easy task. Using its proprietary Scalable Link Interface, this card, with its three DVI ports, can connect up to three monitors together.



PLANTRONICS GAMECOM 7.1 HEADPHONES

(₹ 4,900)

Plantronics is a reliable name when it comes to gaming headphones. One headset that is worth mentioning is the Gamecom 7.1. It is made for serious gamers who do not want to miss a smash, grunt or a bullet shot. It has a 40-mm sound driver that can produce 7.1 channel virtual surround sound. This ensures you know in advance the direction from where your foe is approaching. The slightest foot noise or car sounds are audible. Besides gaming, gamers also love music. So for sure, these headphones are excellent for music too. The microphone arm gets neatly tucked behind the headband. A USB sound card comes in the pack and is compatible with any PC.



RAZER MARAUDER KEYBOARD

(₹ 7,499)

Marauder is a special edition gaming keyboard built around the Starcraft theme. So what's so special about this keyboard you ask? For starters the looks of the keyboard are what most people would gawp at. However, that is not the most arresting feature of this keyboard. It has specially elevated keys for better feedback and response. Moreover, one can also record macro movements on the fly which can be executed at a press of a button. Now here is an ally you need at your side in the gaming war zone.





STEEL SERIES QCK+ TYLOO LIMITED EDITION

(₹ 1,800)

Steel Series has earned renown across the globe for its excellent gaming mats and surfaces for gamers. The latest to come from the company's factories is this limited edition Tyloo mat, which is quite an eyecatcher. The QCK+ series is the best choice for a gamer irrespective of his mouse sensitivity. A smooth cloth covers the supersized rubber base edge to edge. At 4 mm thickness, this edition of QCK pad is twice as thick as the regular version and so provides more cushioning for the palm when playing for long durations. Take it to any LAN event and you are bound to catch the eyes of passers-by.



ANTEC LANBOY AIR

(₹ 11,599)

For a showoff gamer, a coveted cabinet is the ultimate. It not only tells you what nukes you hide inside your gaming machine, but it is also an armour that keeps the gaming power safe within. Lanboy Air, the latest offering from Antec, keeps your computing components well aired. A number of fans are placed all over the cabinet to keep the components cool. There are six hard-drive slots and removable motherboard tray with CPU cut-out for easy cooling fan installation. It is compatible with all motherboards and power supplies.



A NATION BEGINS TO PLAY

INDIA REMAINS GAMING'S LAST UNCONQUERED FRONTIER—BUT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THIS IS FAST CHANGING. SO LOOK FOWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE FLOODGATES OPEN.

BY ANAND RAMACHANDRAN

Stop wasting your time playing useless games and go finish your homework." It's a refrain that has been heard countless times in India over the ages, long before videogames entered the fray as a potential time-wasting activity for urban Indian children. And it could be the key to explaining why, among major economies, India remains the only one in which the videogames industry hasn't yet managed to establish a substantial foothold.

Videogames began entering affluent urban Indian households pretty early in their history—the venerable Atari 2600 gaming console was, in fact, a reasonably common sight, often a present from relatives living abroad. Subsequently, every generation of home consoles would manage to worm its way into Indian homes, but none of these would ever go mainstream. PC penetration remained low for several years, but even when it grew to reasonable numbers, it did not see a corresponding spurt in the gaming market. While game sales in nations with comparable economies number in the hundreds of thousands to the millions, a game in India is typically consid-

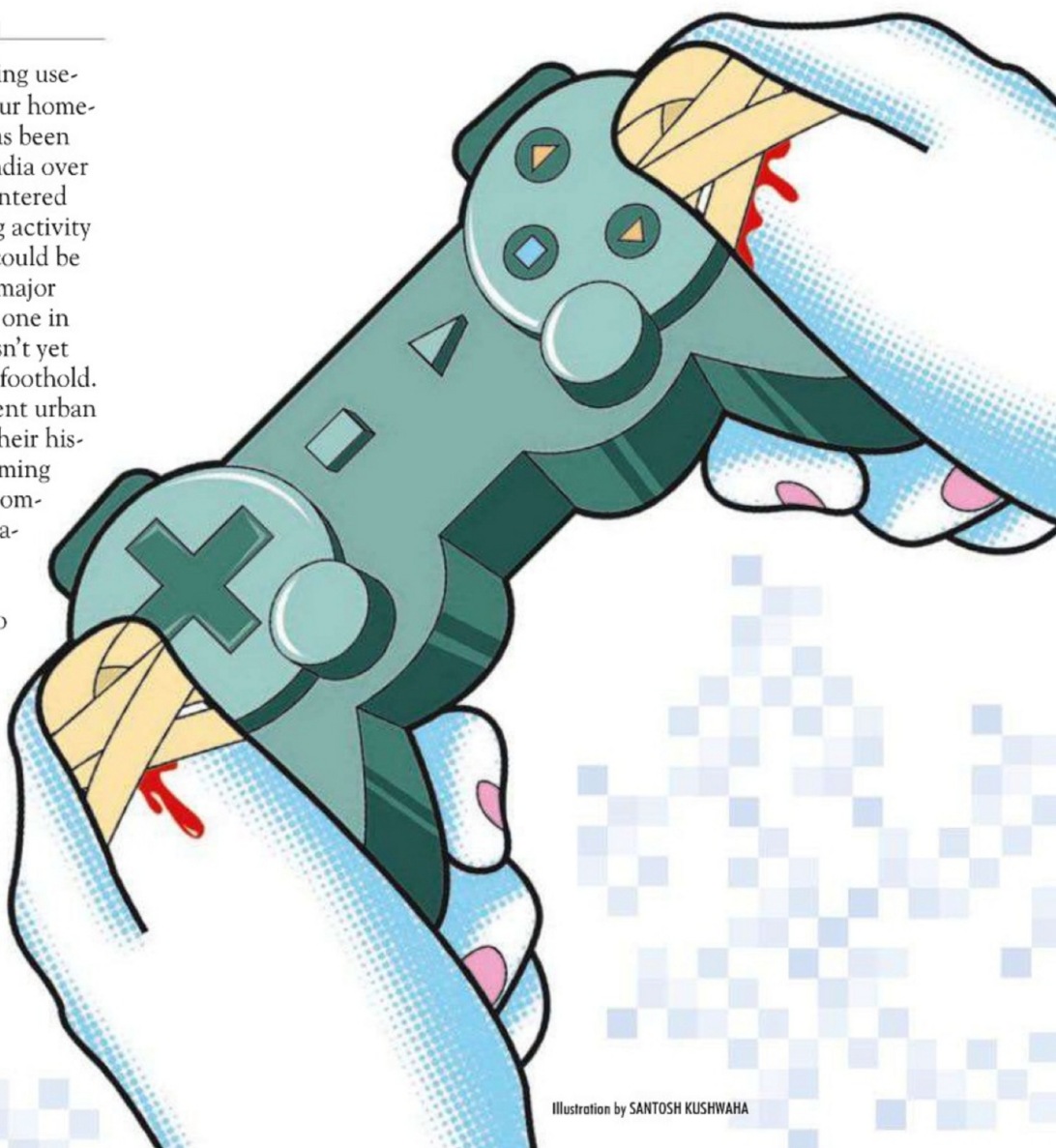


Illustration by SANTOSH KUSHWAHA



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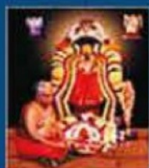
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ered a hit if it sells in the low ten thousands.

Why is this happening? Why is the world's fastest growing entertainment form finding it so hard to make inroads in the world's second-most populous country?

Play has traditionally been considered a waste of time in Indian society, especially in the teeming middle-class segment that has the potential to buy games. Calling a child "playful" is often derogatory in these homes, and playfulness is a quality to be avoided, corrected and derided. Which could be why we don't even have a thriving toys and games industry today—a tragedy considering our history of inventing incredibly rich and engaging toys and games. The range of toys, novelties, board games and playthings available in the Indian market, while considerably wider than before, still pale in comparison to that available in the west or the far east. Videogames, being a natural extension of toys and board games, will follow the same path.

Compare this to the rate at which the electronic household goods industry or the fashion industry, for instance, are closing the gap and it should become clear where our priorities lie. We simply don't think play is important.

In fact, another parallel is the way Indian society approaches sports. While we undoubtedly enjoy watching sports (at least, sports at which we do reasonably well), we're not what you'd call a sporting nation. The percentage of the population, across age groups that regularly plays a sport is fairly low. Again, this is a clear indicator of our basic attitude to play—that it is merely a diversion which has no value other than perhaps whiling away a few pleasant hours before we return our attentions to constructive study or work.

Consequently, the typical Indian household has always remained tight-fisted when it comes to entertainment spend. So to waste approximately ₹ 25,000 - 30,000 on a gaming console or PC and then spend a couple of thousand rupees a month on games is well beyond what a household is willing to spend on diversions, even if they could afford it.

However, this is changing in a few significant ways.

The first thing is the way mobile phones have captured the imagination of India. Almost every Indian, regardless of economic status, is aspiring to buy a phone that is just outside what he can afford. The same Indian middle class household that balks at shelling out money for an Xbox or a PS3 will think nothing of paying even more for a shiny new iPhone—and therein lies the opportunity for game publishers. While the numbers are nowhere near those needed to sustain a viable industry,





the number of Indians downloading and playing mobile games is growing at an encouraging rate.

Secondly, the explosion of social gaming on Facebook and other online networks has given millions of Indians who use these networks plenty of engaging games to play with their friends. The fact that these games are free and that they are social has made them a lot more appealing to the millions of Indians on these networks. Sure, Indian users hardly ever pay for these games, but it's a start that they're playing at all. It's only a matter of time before the payment ecosystem falls into place, and Indians begin microtransacting with the best of 'em—at which point the market is bound to become one of the most significant in the world. Major players like Zynga and Playdom are already present in India, and it won't be long before they figure out a way to exploit this market.

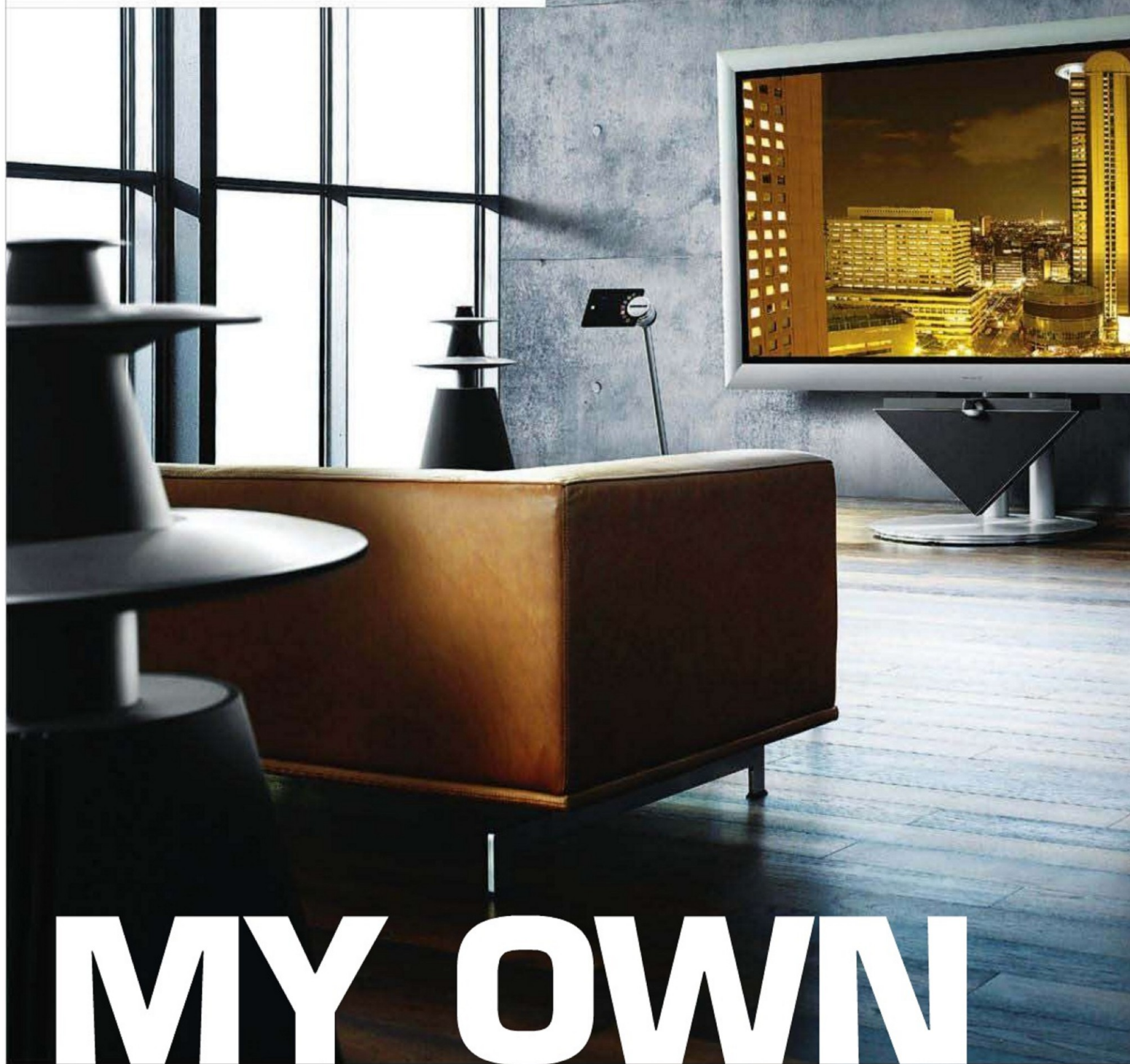
And thirdly, major publishers are training their guns on the Indian market, looking for that one breakout game that will make Indians sit up and take notice of gaming. Sony has already made creditable progress, developing and publishing India-focused titles like *Hanuman*, *Desi Adda* and *Cart Kings* for its PlayStation consoles. Disney has been putting out mobile games based on its Indian films, and claims to have seen encouraging paid download numbers. EA and Ubisoft are also in the fray—and every major publisher is taking a crack at solving the riddle of the Indian market. It's only a matter of time before one of them does, and then the floodgates should open.

Mobile phones and web browsers are personal devices, where an individual (adult or child) doesn't require the approval of an authority figure (parent, spouse, boss) to access or play a game. This removes a huge blocker preventing the growth of gaming as a hobby in India. Also, Indians are slowly waking up to the fact that gaming is not merely for young children, and that adults can enjoy it too. Parents who enjoy playing games are far more likely to purchase them for their children—an assumption validated by the fact that Indians take a far more tolerant view of movies, since they themselves are consumers of the entertainment form.

The day isn't far off when India finally arrives as a gaming market in its own right (it's already taken far too long). With an emerging game development industry also present in the country, perhaps we can look forward to a gaming equivalent of Bollywood someday—an industry that churns out a distinct style of games that India, and the world, loves to play.

BestBuys >>>

PRICE-PERFORMANCE EQUATION OF THE MONTH



MY OWN MOVIE

1 PROJECTORS



EPSON DM3

₹ 49,990

A projector is the first need that comes to mind when you are thinking of a home-theatre set-up. The Epson DM 3 has been around for quite some time and is still one of the best money can buy. Its uniqueness is still unmatched. While it may be a projector, it has onboard speakers and a DVD slot. The video quality is excellent and can be played up to 300 inches. It supports HD resolution and you can play back media from various devices such as PC, Blu-ray player or a game console.

SPECS: 3 LCD projection; HD resolution; 30-300 inches screen; 2000 lm brightness, 3000:1 contrast ratio, HDMI, USB, DVD player

LG AF 115

₹ 2.25 lakh

This mammoth projector elicits a "wow!" from everyone who sees its performance. Built for a large home-theatre set-up, this huge projector is worth every penny spent on it. The colours are life-like and it supports Full HD resolution of 1080P. Connectivity ports include HDMI, component and VGA. You can manually adjust the lens for the best picture—this might take some time but once done you are set for a brilliant experience. It is loud so keep it at a distance from your theatre seats.

SPECS: LCoS Technology; 1080P resolution support; 1500 lumens brightness; 30,000:1 contrast ratio; manual zoom; 9.6 kg



HALL

BRING A CINEMA
THEATRE RIGHT
INTO YOUR LIVING
ROOM WITH
THESE GIZMOS.

BY SULABH PURI

2 BLU-RAY PLAYERS



LG BX580

Price: ₹ 27,990

Why settle for just a BD player that cannot play 3D content when you can get one that does both? Of course, a 3D ready BD player is going to cost double the price of a regular one. But we reckon that if you are thinking of buying one you already own a 3D TV or are planning to buy one. So given the price of 3D TVs, funds, we presume, are not a problem. LG has a new 3D Blu-ray player, the BX580, that is compatible with most 3D TV. It is Internet ready too. Users can play media files from a USB as well. It can also upscale DVD content to 1080P resolution.

Specs: Full HD support; 3D supported; Ethernet; Internet Ready; USB, HDMI



3 LARGE TV SET

SAMSUNG 55 INCH 8000 SERIES 3D TV

Price: ₹ 2,49,990

If money is no constraint, we strongly recommend you purchase a TV display bigger than 50 inches. Only then will you get the true feel of a home cinema. This one from Samsung is 55 inches and displays beautiful images in HD. Alongside the deep Blacks, other colours look stunning. It is Internet ready and you can connect a USB drive to play content. However, its top feature is its ability to convert 2D content into 3D. Even if you do not have a 3D signal to this TV set, you can still enjoy 3D.

SPECS: 55 inch LED screen; 1080P resolution; 3D ready; Smart functions; Web browsing; HDMI, Component, USB; 29.7 mm slim; 18.6 kg



SAMSUNG BD-C5500

Price: ₹ 11,990

It is the age of Blu-ray. Your home-theatre system should have the latest offering. Samsung is out with an affordable BD player option in the form of the C5500. It can do it all—play Blu-ray flicks, DVD movies and even browse the Internet. That is correct you can browse websites on this TV. Just hook it on to your home's Net connection using Ethernet or Wi-Fi card (sold separately) and you can watch videos from YouTube, browse images from picture sharing sites or just stream music from your PC. It can work with any HDTV and can also play cinema from your media PCs.

Specs: Full HD support; BD, DVD, VCD playback; HDMI, Wi-fi Ready; Internet TV, USB; 1.6 kg

4 SOUND SYSTEM

SAMSUNG HW-C450 SOUND BAR

Price: ₹ 17,000

The best option for rooms and households that have space constraints is an audio bar such as the Samsung HW-C450. Sound bars produce virtual surround sound without actual speakers placed around the room. This offering from Samsung comprises a 2.1 set-up that includes a front sound bar and a subwoofer. Together they can create virtual surround sound for viewers irrespective of where they are sitting in the room. Together the speakers produce 280W RMS of sound.

Specs: 2.1 channel; Virtual surround sound; 280W total RMS; Dolby Digital, DTS





S SEATING

NATUZZI HOME THEATRE SOFA

Price: ₹ 4.03 lakh + tax

Who said money cannot buy happiness? We say it does. It will buy you happiness and comfort—like Natuzzi's special home-theatre sofas. The company has a specially designed modular 5-seater reclining sofa set for your cinematic pleasures. You get the choice to opt for mechanical or manual reclining options. Not only that, the sofa also has in-built speakers with iPod connectivity. Just hook it to your HTS and you will get resonance from all sides. Italian craftsmanship ensures a lot of colours to choose from. Further, you can opt for contrast stitch as well.



SONY DAV TZ130

Price: ₹ 9,990

An affordable option for the home theatre. This one from Sony is good enough to give you a good surround sound experience. It comes with 5 speakers—2 for front, 1 centre and 2 for rear. For thumping effects, single subwoofer comes as part of the pack. Good for small to large rooms, this one can produce 350W RMS surround sound. A DVD player comes bundled in the box for your viewing pleasures. It can upscale DVD movies to HD resolutions so that you can enjoy movies on your large screens. It can also playback movies and music from USB drives.

SPECS: 5.1 channel surround sound; 350W total RMS; DVD/MP3 playback; DVD upscale; USB support, HDMI

SECURITY BLANKET

1

LAPTOPS/NETBOOKS

From the regular laptop bags to sleeves, there are plenty that offer protections to notebooks.



TARGUS 15" APPLE SLIP CASE

Price: ₹ 1,999

Designed for the Apple MacBook range, this sleeve from Targus is made of premium nylon exteriors and has bubble foam inside. It comes with two different openings for accessing the laptop. The opening at the top makes it a regular sleeve while the one that opens up like a clam shell acts as a lapdesk. This means you need not pull the MacBook out of the sleeve or hunt for a flat surface when you want to work. The sleeve also easily slides into another bag.



PHILIPS NOTEBOOK SLEEVE WITH HEAT PROTECT

Price: ₹ 1,999 onward

This innovative laptop sleeve absorbs the heat generated by the machine. The hard top provide a sturdy surface work surface and ventilation, while three layers provide protection. Unlike other cooling pads, this one doesn't use electricity to absorb the heat. In grey and yellow, the Philips sleeve is available in four sizes: 10.2 inches, 13.3, 14.1 and 15.6 inches.

BLUE LOUNGE CABLE CLIP

Price: ₹ 800 onward



Just like your gadgets, the charging cables are meant to be handled with care. With so many wires running across the room and adding to the clutter, you could use this cable clip for cable management. Capable of handling any size of cable—headphone, mobile charger, laptop chargers, etc—the Blue Lounge clip available in different colours and sizes. There are six small clips or four medium ones or two large-sized clips in a pack.

TIME TO MOVE ON FROM REGULAR COVERS AND GET SOME INNOVATIVE, UTILITY-ORIENTED COVERS FOR YOUR DEVICES.

BY NIDHI SINGAL

Today's gadgets don't sit idle at home—they are constantly on the move. Be it your smartphone, camera, laptop or tablet, it goes wherever you go. This means that the chances of their getting damaged due to dust, falls or shock increase automatically. One way of avoiding accidents is to be careful—but even the most careful can have an offday. What you can do to minimise damage then is to add a security layer between unforeseen circumstances and your device. Fortunately, savvy companies have moved beyond the ordinary and today produce protective covers that are innovative and packed with utility for the consumer.

2

TABLETS

The tablet category was defined by the launch of Apple iPad. You might find it a bit surprising but even with so many tablets in the market, this segment is dominated by the iPad and so is the accessory market. Here are a few worth checking.

APPLE SMART COVER

Price: ₹ 2,210

This is the official accessory for the Apple iPad 2. Supposedly a smart cover to protect the screen from dust and scratches, this comes with a built-in magnet that smartly yokes it to the tablet when brought near the edge. Opening the Smart Cover wakes the iPad 2 from the sleep mode while closing it instantly puts the iPad to sleep. Folding the cover turns it into a 'stand', used both horizontally and vertically for various needs including typing, Facetime, etc. It also removes the smudges from the tablet's touch surface.



HIP STREET IPAD BLUETOOTH KEYBOARD AND PORTFOLIO CASE

Price: On request

This one is a three-in-one case. Made of leather, it acts as a carrying case for the iPad while keeping it free from scratches. Unfolding the case allows it to be used as a stand for holding the iPad horizontally. The net-book-sized keyboard that pairs with the iPad over Bluetooth has been added to the case. It gets attached to the magnetic plate below the cover and makes typing on the iPad a lot easier.



GECKO FOLIO DELUXE

Price: NA

For those who are not really impressed with the iPad Smart Cover can consider the Folio Deluxe from Gecko. The Australian accessory brand is present in most of the leading gadget stores, including organized retail. This tablet cover has a soft padded exterior along with a chamois leather-like lining inside. The Folio is designed in such a way that it can be used as a stand as well.



BELKIN LEATHER SLEEVE

Price: ₹ 2,699

The leather sleeve for the iPad is a fashion accessory. It is lightweight and fits easily on the iPad's body.



SECURITY BLANKET

3

MOBILES

You will find a regular carrying pouch for any handset in the market but if you take a step further, you will unearth some interesting cases just for smartphones. When you spend thousands of rupees on a phone, why not spend some more and protect them?

GRIFFIN SURVIVOR CASE

Price: ₹ 2,999

Designed for the Apple iPhone 4, the survivor case from Griffin has something special about it. As the name suggests it is crafted to withstand dust, air, sand and vibrations. Tested and certified by the US Department of Defense and meeting UK military standards, it can resist a 6-ft fall. The integral display shield can deflect rain and the cover can protect the phone from water of up to 200 mm for an hour. Available in four colours, the multiple layers give it a handy grip.



CALLER ID CASE

Price: ₹ 849 onward

Rarely do we answer a call without having a look at the incoming call—is it someone we know or some random number? This becomes a bit tiring if the phone is in a wrap that covers the display. Golla has come up with some innovative covers for Apple iPhone, BlackBerry and Nokia smartphone. These have a caller ID window that displays the incoming call details, leaving it to the user to decide whether to take the handset out of the case to answer the call or not. Inventive thought.



BELKIN VERVE CASE

Price: ₹ 1,299

The Belkin Verve is a lightweight leather case with detailed cut-outs giving access to the controls placed on every side of a mobilephone. However, what makes it stand out is the kickstand that comes handy for viewing multimedia content like watching movies and videos. The foldout kickstand comes into use when one wishes to place the phone on a plain surface in landscape mode.



CASEMATE FUEL FOR BLACKBERRY

Price: ₹ 2,999 onward

Uniting the concept of carrying a phone in the case along with charging on the move, companies have started coming up with smart covers that have inbuilt batteries. These covers with in-built rechargeable batteries store the charge and power up the smartphone when clipped to the jacks in the cover. The power on/off button makes them efficient to use and because they add minimal bulk to the whole thing, they are quite useful. Similar to the Casemate Fuel, there are some available for iPhones and iPods from brands like Mili and Mophie.



KATA RC E690

Price: ₹ 2,388

For preventing your DSLR from unexpected rain or to continue shooting in the rain, Kata has come up with rain covers. The rain cover has two side sleeves that allows the photographer to access the camera and the lens covers even as the adjust lens hood helps in adjusting the zoom level while keeping the camera body protected.



GG MOBILES SPECIAL



- SHOOTOUT: SMARTPHONE WITH THE BEST CAMERA
- REVIEWS OF NOKIA X7, HTC SENSATION AND LG OPTIMUS BLACK
- GOOGLE PLUS APP ON YOUR PHONE

WHICH SMARTPHONE HAS THE BEST CAMERA?

BY NIDHI SINGAL



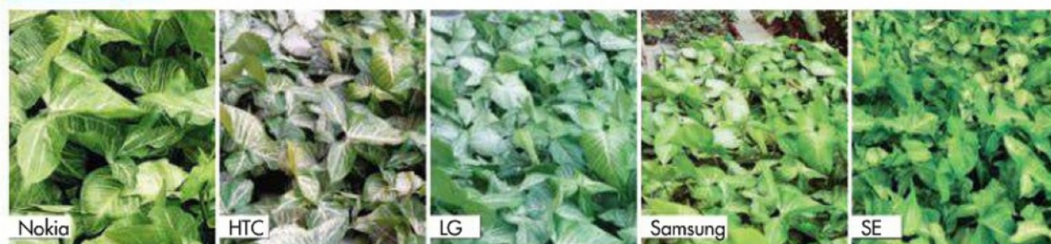
he first few things one considers when buying a cell phone is the price, followed by the camera megapixel rating. People probably reason that it is better to carry one gadget instead of two—a mobile phone, not a phone and camera. Moreover, when you need to take a picture, you don't always have a camera with you. But a phone? It's ubiquitous, the always-there device. Due to the increasing demand for camera phones, the megapixel war is growing sharper. Once the regular phone costing around ₹ 5,000 used to sport a 3.2 MP camera. That has long since been replaced by the 5 MP lens of current vintage. Now,

dominating the high-end smartphone domain is the 8 MP camera with features like LED flash, auto focus, various scenes and image capturing mode. With Nokia's N8 (12 MP shooter) acclaimed by many around the world as the best camera phone around, the benchmark has been further raised. All the major players, including Samsung, LG, Sony Ericsson and HTC, are trying to offer the best they can, in the process befuddling the consumers. To make things simpler for them, G&G has this quick comparison of the latest smartphones boasting 8 MP sensors. In the ring are the HTC Incredible S, Nokia C7, Sony Ericsson Arc, LG Optimus 2x and Samsung Galaxy SII.

SHOOTOUT!

THE FIVE CAMERA PHONES CAPTURED IMAGES IN DIFFERENT

TEST 1 BRIGHT DAYLIGHT:



Nokia C7 produced the results that looked natural and crisp. LG Optimus 2x rated second. The images produced by Samsung Galaxy S II and Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc were good but over saturated. The HTC Incredible S pictures appeared washed out.



PICTURE PERFECT WHAT THE SMARTPHONES SCORED



**SAMSUNG
GALAXY S II:**
28/40



**SONY
ERICSSON
ARC:** 27/40



**NOKIA
C7:**
27/40



**HTC
INCREDI-
BLE S:**
26/40



**LG
OPTIMUS
2X:** 17/40

(IN EACH CATEGORY, THE BEST RESULT WON 5 POINTS, THE SECOND BEST 4 POINTS AND SO ON. THE WORST GARNERED JUST A SINGLE POINT).

SCENARIOS WITH DEFAULT SETTINGS. SOME FARED REALLY WELL WHILE A FEW DISAPPOINTED.

TEST 2 DECENTLY LIT AMBIENCE AT NIGHT, WITHOUT FLASH:



Sony Ericsson Arc managed the best photo, followed by Samsung Galaxy S II. The result of the HTC Incredible S wasn't as dark as that of the Optimus 2x, but had a slightly red tinge. Image captured by the Nokia C7 was the worst Tip: Always keep ISO level at 100-200 maximum.

TEST 3 COLOUR :



Here, Samsung Galaxy S II topped the charts. Sony Ericsson Arc and HTC Incredible S did a good job too. Optimux 2x wasn't disappointing either. But the Nokia C7 completely flattened the colours and the image looked washed out.

TEST 4 PORTRAIT - INDOOR



Nokia C7 retained the skin shade in combination with the surroundings and similar is our opinion for the Samsung Galaxy S II. The HTC Incredible S had clarity but was relatively dark. Sony Ericsson Arc and LG Optimux 2x images gave an unnatural bluish tinge to white.

TEST 5 OBJECTS – INDOOR WITH FLASH



Sony Ericsson Arc performed the best. Even Nokia C7 did a good job. Little noise was visible in the images captured by HTC Incredible S. The background wasn't lit up well in pictures captured by the Samsung Galaxy S II. LG Optimux 2x added a yellowish tinge.

TEST 6 EVENING-OUTDOOR



Once again Nokia C7 did the best job. The Sony Ericsson Arc also produced good results, though the HTC Incredible S's were better. The image captured by the Galaxy S II had a greenish and reddish hues at two different spots. The Optimux 2x returned an overall green tinge.

TEST 7 CLOSE SHOT, AT NIGHT WITH FLASH



HTC Incredible S captured lifelike image. Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc and LG Optimux 2x produced good images but the one from the Samsung Galaxy S 2 was over saturated, giving it an artificial feel. The image captured by the Nokia C7 was disappointing.

TEST 8 PORTRAIT IN DAYLIGHT



HTC Incredible S produced the most lifelike image with sharp edges, followed by the Nokia C7. Samsung Galaxy S II did an equally good job. Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc ranked four whereas the results of the Optimux 2x had a green tinge and the image wasn't sharp at all.

VERDICT

No one camera was outstanding in all scenarios. But the Samsung Galaxy S II overall managed the best and we rated it the winner as the best camera phone. The Nokia C7 and Sony Ericsson scored equal points, but Nokia edged ahead due to price advantage. HTC Incredible S also fared well, but the LG Optimux 2x was disappointing.

WARRIORS

WHAT THESE COMBATANTS CAME ARMED WITH



SAMSUNG GALAXY SII

(Price: ₹ 30,000)

8MP; LED Flash: on, off, auto. Focus: Auto, macro, face detection; Scene mode: None, portrait, landscape, sports, sunset, night, party/indoor, beach/snow, dawn, fall colour, firework, text, candle light, backlight. Shot mode: single, smile, beauty, panorama, action, cartoon. Image Stabilisation; No dedicated camera key; 4.3-inch display.



SONY ERICSSON XPERIA ARC

(₹ 27,499)

8MP; LED flash: auto, off, fill flash, red eye reduction. Focus: auto, multi auto, face detection, macro, infinity, touch focus. Scene mode: landscape, portrait, night scene, night portrait, beach and snow, sports, party, documents. Image stabilisation; Exmor R backlit sensor, dedicated camera key, anywhere touch capture; 4.2-inch display.



LG OPTIMUS 2X

(Price: ₹ 25,499)

8MP; LED flash: on, off, auto, red eye reduction; Focus: auto, macro, face tracking, manual. Scene mode: auto, portrait, landscape, sports, sunset, night. Shot mode: continuous, out focusing, smile, art, beauty, panorama stitch. Image stabilisation; no dedicated camera key; 4-inch display.



HTC INCREDIBLE S

(₹ 26,399)

8MP; Dual LED flash: on, off, auto. Focus: auto, face detection, touch; Auto enhance; No dedicated camera key; 4-inch display.



NOKIA C7

(Rs 17,999)

8MP; LED flash: on, off, auto, red eye reduction. Fixed focus; Scene mode: auto, manual, portrait, landscape, night; night portrait. Dedicated camera key; 3.5-inch display.

REFRESHING TREAT

Facing criticism for its outdated operating system in comparison to the Apple iOS, Google's Android and Microsoft's Windows Phone, Nokia finally joined hands with Microsoft. But before completely ditching its favoured OS (in 2016), it isn't unmindful of Symbian's loyal users. So one more blow. The new Symbian update, named Anna, brings much-awaited changes. New better-looking circular icons, improved web browser and an on-screen QWERTY keypad in portrait mode along with a few tweaks in downloading apps from Ovi Store are the long overdue enhancements. And to reap the benefits of the upgrade, the X7 is Nokia's first full touch smartphone.

Dressed to stand out from the crowd, the X7 looks different with its angular design. Grills on the corners add to the design element (the bottom grills actually hide the speakers). The non-removable back cover has resulted in the need for SIM and memory card slots on the side. But the new design—press the dot to tilt the other end and then pull out the trays—won't leave everyone comfortable. The volume control and camera key are on the right panel with a 4-inch capacitive display dominating the front. Start the phone and you are prompted for the Nokia account details that automatically

logs into all the Nokia services. Similar to Symbian 3, the homescreen here is divided into three customisable windows. The main menu looks unchanged as is the multitasking—long pressing the homekey to relaunch or close the running apps.

Configuring an email account was quick and browsing was simple. An icon at the right bottom gave access to a plenty of features like bookmarks, windows, history, feeds, send link, settings, etc. It comes with two HD games, Asphalt 5 and Galaxy on Fire. The gaming experience was good and more games can be downloaded from Ovi Store.

The sound output of the music player was loud and clear. The experience of watching videos and movies over the display was excellent. For imaging, the phone has an 8 MP camera but with a fixed focus. It also has a dual LED flash and features such as face detection but it isn't anything out of the world. With the new OS, images transferred over Bluetooth landed automatically in the gallery, instead of the message box.

It supports expandable memory up to 32 GB and an 8GB card comes with phone. It also supports USB-on-the-Go feature but the connector isn't a part of the pack.



NOKIA X7

Price: ₹ 21,999

Specs: 4-inch display; 8 MP camera; EDGE, 3G, Wi-Fi, A-GPS; 350 MB internal memory, 32 GB memory, expandable; 146 gm, 1200mAh battery.



BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Overhauled Symbian device but still faces competition from Android.

NOT SO SENSATIONAL



The Android world has been stuck by dual core processors. After the LG Optimus 2x and Samsung Galaxy SII, now HTC has come up with a similar device.

On papers, the spec sheet of the HTC Sensation looks very similar to the Samsung GS2's. A 4.3-inch capacitive display, Android v2.3, dual core processor clocked at 1.2GHz, 8MP camera, etc.

Loaded with the HTC Sense 3, the home screen interface is refreshing. We had to drag the ring upwards to unlock the screen and could also customise four shortcuts that can be launched from the lock screen by dragging it to the ring at the bottom. Even the weather app powered by Accuweather had better graphics and close-to-accurate predictions. Once again the main menu was divided in to All apps, Frequent and Downloads. A task manager has been added to the notifications bar that takes one to the running apps consuming ROM and gives an option to kill them. At any given point of time, of the 558 MB total ROM memory, with none of the apps running, the free memory was never above 180 MB. In the main application setting, it showed 187 MB RAM used with close to 313 MB free. While different players use chipsets from different manufacturer, HTC opted for Qualcomm's Snapdragon processor, which the company claims is optimized for more efficient work in comparison to other processors. However, the overall performance of the Sensation was a bit slow. Even the benchmark score on the Quadrant Benchmark was just 2030 points, in comparison to the 3000+ score of the Samsung Galaxy S2.

But the Sensation comes with a few impressive features as well. The web browsing was smooth and the browser always enquires whether videos should be played in YouTube. The video playback clarity was good but wasn't loud enough. The phone was instant in building satellite connection using Google Maps. Email, Facebook and Twitter were a few handy, on-the-move apps that came preinstalled on the phone. Full HD Video capture was good with above average imaging from the 8MP camera during daylight. But images captured at night using flash had a yellow-golden effect.

Facing tough competition from the Samsung GS2, it had its own set of letdowns. The much-talked about death grip issue was present in the device. When the top back was covered by the hand, the phone completely loses the Wi-Fi signal. Even the battery was just average as it failed to last a day with email, social networking, regular calling and web browsing.



HTC SENSATION

Price: ₹ 29,899

Specs: 4.3-inch display; 8 MP camera; 1.2 GHz dual core processor, 786 MB RAM; 32GB memory, expandable; Wi-Fi, 3G, Bluetooth; 1520 mAh battery

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Not the best for the price it comes at. Consider Galaxy S2 instead.

—TEXT BY NIDHI SINGAL & PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAJWANT RAWAT

BLACK, NOT BEAUTIFUL

The focus of Android is now shifting from just utility to looks. Riding on the success of the Optimus and the well-applauded Optimus 2x, LG is now following the trend by introducing the Optimus Black. Not a part of the Black Label series known for having some of the best looking phones, the Black, nevertheless, manages to score in the looks department. It is a complete touch device with a solid build but feels like a smooth piece of plastic. However, LG is busy boasting about the 4-inch Nova display as the brightest display ever in a smart-phone. In our opinion, the phone has a bright display but it isn't something that needs to be tom-tommed. Indeed, when on full brightness, the phone even worked as a flash light.

Operating on Android v2.2 when all the latest devices are on v2.3 is a letdown. It did allowed us to configure Gmail account, Gtalk, search the web, watch videos, download apps,

stay connected to social world but the overall performance was a bit slow. Even while searching the phonebook, the contacts appeared only when we finished typing out the full name. The 5 MP camera on-board managed to capture decent images but there was a huge shutter lag. And the battery hardly managed to last a day with average use.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Average performer. Faces competition from Motorola Defy and HTC Desire S.



LG OPTIMUS BLACK P970

Price: ₹ 19,900

Specs: Android 2.2; 4-inch display; 5 MP camera; 2GB internal, 512 MB RAM, 32 GB expandable; EDGE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G; 109 gm; 1500 mAh battery



THE SMALL WONDER

With smartphones getting bigger, even mini phones have created a niche for themselves. Sony Ericsson's Xperia Mini and Mini Pro were well accepted and the company has even announced their upgrades. HTC isn't lagging behind and is out with a sizzling device—the Wildfire S. The name suggests it is the successor to the Wildfire but it looks smart and different. Usually, compact phones have small displays but this one boasts a regular 3.2-inch capacitive display. Although, the display looked small, accessing applications was easy. Initially, typing over the onscreen QWERTY keypad was a bit difficult but very soon we got used to it. The compact size was complemented by clean looks. Below the Gorilla Glass display are the four touch keys—home, option, back and search. The 3.5mm jack along with the power key was placed on the top whereas the volume key and charging jack were on

the left panel. Running on the Android v2.3, the Wildfire has a 600MHz processor clubbed with 512MB RAM. Onboard are basics including Google Services, HTC Hub, news and weather, Quick Lookup, Voice recorder, etc. The 5 MP onboard camera churns out average pictures and the phone does not support 720p video capture either.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Android starter, worth considering



HTC WILDFIRE S

Price: ₹ 13,800

Specs: 3.2-inch display; 5 MP camera; 512 MB RAM, 512MB ROM, 32GB expandable; EDGE, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi; 105 gm; 1230 mAh battery



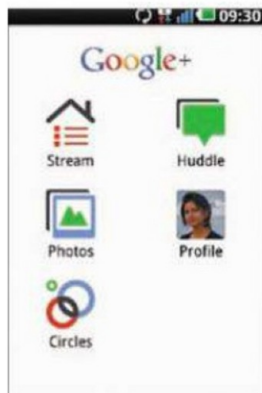
APPSOLUTELY

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON MOBILE PHONE APPS



Call Control Blacklist Lite BlackBerry OS

Those who are tired of receiving unwanted calls on their BlackBerry connection should consider installing this app. The Call Control helps in blocking unwanted telemarketing calls and even saves these calls from going to voicemail. Blocking area codes and private callers and having personal blacklist and whitelist (managed manually) are a few other noteworthy features. One can upgrade to the Pro version to automatically block spam caller along with giving access to online integration. But for free app, even the Lite version smartly blocks the unwanted calls. (Reviewed on BlackBerry 8520)



Google+ Android OS

The recently launched social networking space by Google is available for Android smart-phones from day one. The Google+ app looks clutter free and clean. The home page comprises stream, huddle, photos, profile and circles. Stream shows the latest updates from various circles. The easy-to-use huddle available on the handset is an instant group messaging service that keeps one connected to multiple friends in a single chat. All those known to you can be added to circles like Friends, Acquaintances, Following, Friends, etc. and one can add new circles. As Google+ allows user to share updates with selected circles, this feature can be accessed from the mobile app as well. Downloadable from Android Market free of cost, one can even visit the web page 'http://www.google.com/mobile/+/' to send an SMS or visit m.google.com/plus from mobile browser. (Reviewed on LG Optimus 2x)

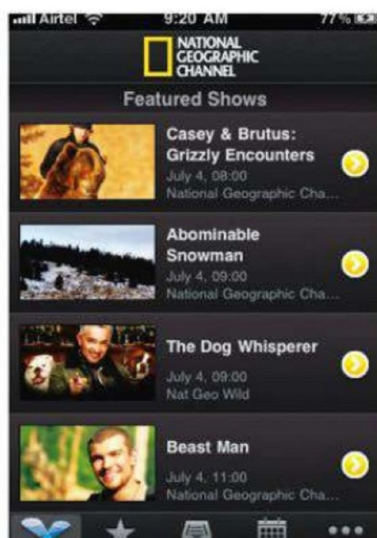
Mobile Number Locator iOS

With the increasing number of mobile numbers, operators are forced to start new series with numbers starting with 88, 77, etc. In case, you missed a call from an unknown number, to learn which city it belongs to, just type the first four digits mobile number locator tab. It will reveal details such as the state, reference cities and service provider of the number that can help you in understanding to an extent who could have called. There is even an option to check the STD code via the name of the district or to learn the name of the state by entering the code. Last but not the least is the ISD code locator that works in a similar way but it failed to give the ISD codes for many countries. (Reviewed on Apple iPhone 3GS)



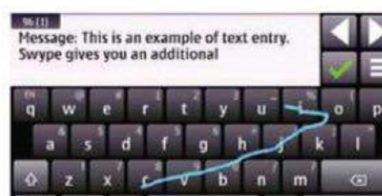
Nat Geo TV iOS

The official mobile app from National Geographic Channel is a welcome one. Divided into various categories, the 'featured shows' list contains a few selected shows. The next tabs on the bottom are 'top ten', subjects, listing and more. The shows listed under these tabs gives user the details about the show, episodes, access to galleries and sometimes videos. The most useful of all are the individual listings for National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo Wild. These offer detailed schedules of the shows to be aired on an hourly basis for the next few days. Here, one can set a reminder for the show and even check the repeat telecast time from the app itself. (Reviewed on Apple iPhone 3GS. Available for Apple iPad as well)



SWYPE Symbian OS

A boon for touch phones, the SWYPE keyboard is a handy way of text input. Just move the finger across various letters in a continuous motion to form words. This application is now available for Nokia phones. Finger and stylus friendly, the auto correction helps in quick typing. It picks up words from a dictionary of close to 65,000 words and has over 50 symbols. The app developer claims of a speed of up to 40 words per minute. In Swype (English), one can choose from various language inputs, including Spanish, French CA and Portuguese Br. (Reviewed on Nokia N8)



—NIDHI SINGAL

TOP 10 SMARTPHONES

1. SAMSUNG GALAXY S II (₹ 30,000)



Specs: Android v2.3; 4.3-inch display; 1.2GHz dual core processor; 1GB MB RAM; 16GB expandable. Plus: Fast, features Minus: Almost none.

2. LG OPTIMUS 2X (₹ 28,000)



Specs: Android v2.2, 4-inch display; 1GHz dual core processor; 8GB, 32 GB expandable. Pros: Dual-core processor Cons: Average battery

3. HTC SENSATION (₹ 29,899)



Specs: Android v2.3; 1.2GHz dual core processor; 768MB RAM; 8MP camera Plus: Sense UI Minus: Wi-Fi death grip, battery

4. HTC INCREDIBLE S (₹ 26,900)



Specs: Android v2.2; 4-inch display; 1GHz; 1.1GHz, 762 MB RAM; 32GB expandable Plus: Build quality, fast Minus: OS

6. SONY ERICSSON XPERIA ARC (₹ 28,900)



Specs: Android v2.3; 4.2-inch display; 8 MP camera; 8.7 mm thickness Plus: Slim build; Camera Minus: NA

4. HTC HD 7 (₹ 29,500)



Specs: Windows Phone 7; 4.3-inch display; 1GHz; 16 GB memory Plus: Bright display Minus: Average OS.

7. NOKIA E7 (₹ 25,500)



Specs: Symbian 3; 680 MHz; 16GB/NA; 4-inch display Plus: Capacitive display, QWERTY keypad; Minus: Operating system

8. BLACKBERRY TORCH (₹ 27,500)



Specs: BlackBerry OS 6; 624MHz; 512MB/32GB; 3.2 inch display Plus: Touch with QWERTY Minus: QWERTY

9. HTC WILDIRE S (₹ 13,500)



Specs: Android v2.3, 600 MHz; 3.2 inch display; 5 MP camera Plus: Compact Size Minus: Onscreen Keyboard

10. NOKIA E5 (₹ 9,200)



Specs: Symbian S60; 600 MHz; 250 MB internal, 32 GB expandable; 2.36 inch display Plus: Speed, looks; Minus: Low resolution display

Top Affordable Phones



1. NOKIA X2-01 Price: ₹ 3,500

Specs: 2.4-inch display; QWERTY keypad; VGA camera; 1020 mAh battery Pros: Good performance Cons: Poor VGA camera



2. SAMSUNG CHAT 355 Price: ₹ 5,080

Specs: 2.4-inch display; QWERTY keypad; 2 MP camera; 1000 mAh battery Pros: Great looks, Wi-Fi Cons: Price on the higher side



3. ZEN M111 Price: ₹ 3,999

Specs: 2.4-inch display; triple SIM GSM; 1.3 MP camera; 1500 mAh battery Pros: Triple SIM GSM, good display Cons: Average camera

Top CDMA Phones



1. MOTOROLA XT 800 Price: ₹ 23,000

Specs: GSM/CDMA; 5 MP camera; Android v2.1; 1GB memory, expandable up to 32GB. Pros: Dual SIM – CDMA/GSM Cons: NA



2. SAMSUNG CORBY SPEED Price: ₹ 7,500

Specs: 2.8-inch touch display; CDMA; 80MB memory, expandable up to 8GB; 960 mAh battery Pros: Mobile TV Cons: Plastic body



3. LG 6160 Price: ₹ 2,649

Specs: FM player; Torch light; 5 MB memory, expandable to 4 GB; No camera Pros: Basic CDMA Cons: No camera

Top Feature Phones



1. NOKIA N8 Price: ₹ 22,500

Specs: Symbian 3; 3.5-inch display, 16 GB, 32GB expandable; 12 MP camera. Pros: Good images, music Cons: Symbian 3 OS



2. SAMSUNG WAVE II Price: ₹ 15,900

Specs: Bada OS; 2GB, 32 GB expandable; 5 MP camera. Pros: Bright display, nice build Cons: Bada OS



3. SONY ERICSSON X10 MINI Price: ₹ 9,990

Specs: Android v2.1; 5 MP camera; 128 MB, memory expandable to 16 GB. Pros: Compact, good imaging Cons: Non-removable battery

Top New Entries



1. NOKIA X7 Price: ₹ 22,000

Specs: Symbian Anna; 4-inch display; 680 MHz processor; 8MP camera, Pros: HD Gaming Cons: Symbian Anna



2. NOKIA E6 Price: ₹ 17,990

Specs: Symbian Anna; 2.46 inch display; 8MP; 256MB RAM Pros: QWERTY keypad with touch interface Cons: Small Display



3. HTC SALSA Price: ₹ 22,000

Specs: Android OS, 3.4-inch display; 512 MB RAM, 800 MHz processor; 5 MP camera Pros: Facebook key Cons: NA



**SLINGBOX
PRO HD**



**GODREJ
GAME LCD**



**PHILIPS
GOPURE**



**PANASONIC
SDR H101**

THE LOOKS

This tablet is a good looker. In a world of size-zero figures, Ziio does not mind flaunting its curves. Not that it is fat, but its thinness is set off by its curvy edges. The build quality is sturdy, and the pearl white exteriors work wonders for this slate. The power and volume keys are located on the side and are very solid. Unlike some other tablets in the same bracket, Ziio has better-built keys.

ENTRY-LEVEL ENTERTAINER

IT IS RAINING TABLETS LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE. SPEAKER MAKER CREATIVE HAS ALSO UNVEILED ONE WHICH IS QUITE THE FUN MACHINE.

TEXT BY SULABH PURI AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RAIWANT RAWAT

Creative is a brand that is best known for speakers for PCs and laptops. The firm—like so many others from different walks of life—has entered the tablets market, which is already booming with many major and minor brands. Creative has dived in head first with a brand new 7-inch tablet called Ziio.

THE MUSCLE

Powered by Android 2.2 operating system, this tablet has a resistive touch screen. This means besides your finger you can use your nail or tablet pen as well to navigate. However, history has shown us that resistive types lose responsiveness occasionally. The Ziio suffers the same. Though it's not bad enough for you to throw a fit, you still feel out of power when playing games like *Angry Birds*. Combined with a 1 GHz processor, 8 GB memory and 512 MB RAM, the Ziio 7 performs well. The applications open up quickly without a hitch. HD movies play nicely and the sound does not break at any point. A few games and some useful applications come pre-loaded. But what catches the attention the most is the bright screen. It can play HD movies with ease and can also connect to any HD Ready TV with its mini HDMI port.



CREATIVE ZIIO 7

Price: ₹ 17,999

Specs: 7-inch touch screen;
1 GHz processor, 512 MB RAM;
8 GB memory; Front camera;
Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, HDMI;
Android 2.2 OS



FINAL WORDS

Creative is on a strong footing with Ziio. Users who do not want to spend a lot but want to experience the full potential of a tablet can buy this. Ziio 7 has neat features, including a front camera for video chats and a microSD slot for media storage. All in all, a well-built tablet at a good price.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Represents an excellent maiden tablet.

SLINGING THAT SONG

A new device has become available for the Indian consumers who love to watch TV and cannot stay away from it for a second. Slingbox is a company that uses advanced receivers to transmit live TV channels to devices such as a laptop or mobile phone. It has brought the Slingbox Pro-HD to India and we grabbed the first opportunity to test this moving pictures transmitter.

The looks are quite nice and the outer shell has a very rich feel. Turn it around and one will find numerous attachment ports that can be used to send out HD as well as regular signals. Ethernet, component and composite are available. So in case you have an HD set top box you can easily connect it to this device and enjoy HD feed anywhere around the world. However, it is limited by low bandwidth penetration in our country. To enjoy HD content you need at least a 2-4 Mbps connection at both ends. The initial setting up takes a little bit of time, but once it is organised, you are ready to enjoy good TV. Overall the concept seems nice and should pick up, the only hurdle in its success being the Internet bandwidth availability.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Enjoy TV channels from around the world.



GODREJ GAME LCD

Price: ₹ 40,000

Specs: 32-inch LCD; Full HD resolution; 25 games on board; 2.4 GHz motion joystick; 2 HDMI, USB 2.0; 1 GB memory for games.



VIEW AND PLAY

Godrej is a brand well known for locks, steel almirahs and fridges. In the past few months, it has shifted focus. So it has sent us its first 32-inch Game LCD. A good concept—it gives the viewer a chance to try out 25 pre-loaded games on the set. It comes with a motion-sensing remote controller which can also turn into an analogue joystick.

There are games such as bowling and table tennis. These do not have the best of graphics, but are fine for casual gaming. There are enough TV connectivity ports at the back which are placed

facing down. Not a good thing as there is a struggle when one wants to connect more devices. The picture quality is not bad at all, neither is the sound. Viewers can also play movies, music and images through the USB port. Overall a good television set that has neat features. However, at this price one can get a larger TV set from most other companies. Only, those wouldn't have gesture gaming.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Nice, except for the placement of the rear ports.



SLINGBOX PRO HD

Price: ₹ 14,999

Specs: Full HD streaming; Composite, Component, Ethernet, USB; Coaxial; IR remote

—TEXT BY SULABH PURI AND PICTURES BY RAJWANT RAWAT

TOO MUCH OF AN EFFORT

iPods are by far the bestselling portable media players. This is why we see so many attachments, accessories and docks specifically for iPods. Another one to attach itself to the iPod Fidelio docking speaker—a different type of iPod dock that does not have a number of speakers embedded. Instead this docking station is built on one large speaker driver. The result: it produces really loud resonance.

The front sports an LED clock that isn't the brightest out there. In fact, it washes out a bit under direct light. But it does get automatically updated according to the time that has been set on the docked iPod. Another set of LED illuminates the bottom of the dock that can be accessed via the brightness button on the dock. The volume keys and clock brightness keys are also placed well on top. But amazingly there is no remote supplied with the dock to manage these and other iPod functions. As for the sound, it is really nice. A good feature, or rather a component, that Philips has smartly included is a powerful USB port behind the dock to charge USB-powered devices. But we still can't get past why there isn't a remote with this dock.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

If you can walk to the dock everytime you want to change a song, then buy this.



PHILIPS FIDELIO IPOD DOCKING STATION

Price: ₹ 4,990

Specs: iPhone, iPod compatible; Clock function; Fidelio iOS app; USB charging point; 1 kg weight



TRANSCEND MP860 4GB

Price: ₹ 3,525

Specs: 4 GB memory; 2.4-inch screen; MP3, WAV playback; Video playback; Voice recorder; FM radio; E-book reader.

BASIC AUDIO

Transcend has been quite dominant in the entry-level MP3 players category. Its players are inexpensive but carry some good features. However, when one enters the video category with a PMP, people like to own something snazzier. Transcend's MP860, a 2.4-inch PMP, has the right tunes but a scruffy outlook. The screen is nice and bright, good if you do not mind watching videos on mobile-like screens. And yet the casing does not match up. It is very basic and the keys are nothing great either.

But what goes in favour of this player is its ability to transmit excellent sound waves to the ears. The supplied headphones are quite nice. But we did find them uncomfortable for long use, as they do not carry cushions around the ear plugs. Other features include FM player; voice recorder and movie playback. Users can also read e-books and view images on the player. The MP860 is a basic player with decent features. Only if you can look past the outer skin would you see the inner beauty.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

If plain looks don't matter, you can get the PMP.

—TEXT BY SULABH PURI AND PICTURES BY RAJWANT RAWAT



PHILIPS GO PURE CAR AIR PURIFIER

Price: ₹ 12,000

Specs: 2 Speed levels; LED Indicator
Normal air: Dark Purple; Cleaner air: Light Purple; Very Clean air: Blue

MOTOR FRESHENER

Even with emission control and green fuels in place, there is lot of pollution on roads that enters our cars (even when the windows are rolled up). Philips has just come up with a solution that lets you breathe easy. The company has launched an air purifier for cars and we gave it a go. At first we were a little sceptical about the whole car air purification system with such a small system.

Then when we tested it out, it really got us rah-rahing. It has two levels of purifications, a quick one and a slow version. These absorb all the suspended air particles, smells and etc, while blasting fresh air into the car. To test it out, we followed a car that was belching smoke. As soon as we turned on the system, within seconds it cleaned out the smoky air in our car. Also to indicate the level of fresh air in the car, GoPure displays different colours. Dark purple is for normal or polluted air; light purples for cleaner air and Blue for very clean air. Amazingly the system even takes out the dirty stench your driver leaves behind in the car. Just for that this is a system worth having in chauffeur driven cars.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Breathe in fresh air. Get it.

—SULABH PURI

TELESCOPIC ZOOM

When you first unpack the Panasonic SDR H101 camcorder, you might be confused. You might think, "Where's the rest of it?" It is so tiny that you'd think it is meant to be a toy for teenagers. It definitely isn't. Even when you attach the large battery at its back, it still remains small. So it boggled us further to find a sticker at the top that said that this recorder sported a 78X optical zoom. Yes, that's right. It does have a very powerful zoom, though at its highest, there is a lot of shake—as if you were running from an avalanche—leaving you with

very little video that is watchable. But keep it under 10X and you are safe. For anything more than that we recommend you use a tripod.

This camcorder sports an 80 GB hard drive to store your videos on. If you run out of that space, then you can also add an SD card in the camera. The H101 also has 33 mm wide lens that captures bigger angles of view. The videos are recorded at 720 x 576 resolution. It is not quite comparable with HD camcorder results, but the video is adequately acceptable. The H101 can well be a good first camcorder.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Light and compact hard-drive video camera.



PANASONIC SDR H101

Price: ₹ 19,999

Specs: 80 GB HDD; 78X optical zoom; 0.8 MP image sensor; 2.7 inch LCD; SD card slot; 720 x 576 video resolution.

—TEXT BY SULABH PURI AND PICTURES BY RAJWANT RAWAT



PANASONIC S3

Price: ₹ 7,990

Specs: 14.1 MP sensor; 3X optical zoom; 2.7-inch LCD; 1600 ISO; HD movie recording; 117 gm.

BASIC YET STYLISH

First timers can look forward to a stylish camera from Panasonic. Adding to the already populated sub ₹10,000 cameras, the S3 is a force to reckon with. Panasonic has made it well. The upper crust is sturdy even if the keys at the back look a bit crass in front of the superior glossy frame. Unlike most in the category that sport a tiny shutter release button, the Panasonic S3 sports a much larger button.

At the back, you will find a bright 2.7-inch LCD. There are four primary modes in this camera:

Intelligent Auto, Normal picture, Video recording and Scene mode, where sub modes like portrait, scenery, night, etc are placed. With 14.1 MP on board and 3X optical zoom lens, this camera can click some good shots. A bit of noise can be seen at full optical zoom which vanishes once you zoom out. Macro shots come out really well. ISO levels of up to 1600 is supported for low light shots. The S3 also has HD movie recording. Taken as a whole, this Panasonic is a very neat entry-level camera.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

A stylish entry-level camera with a lot of colour choices.

—TEXT BY SULABH PURI AND PICTURES BY RAJWANT RAWAT

A WORTHY SHOT

The 200 series of Canon's Powershot cameras has always impressed. The latest in the series is the Powershot SX230 HS. The looks of this camera have been worked upon but not so much that it does not conform to the 200 family tree. The camera has become slimmer, but the pop-out flash is still in the original placing near the left index finger which makes holding the camera a bit awkward. Thankfully you can tuck it back in and turn off the flash from the settings.

The 230 HS flaunts a 3-inch screen with well-placed keys by its side. The slim form factor also hides an optical lens with a zoom power of 14X—a good option for people who like to take their shots from a distance. Clicking pictures is lot of fun. The camera gives a lot of power to the users. The images are clear and sharp with minimal digital noise. We do suggest keeping the ISO under 400 to get the best results. Instead of yanking up the ISO in the dark, just turn the flash on, that

will get you better results. Like its predecessors this one also carries various effects and filters. These include fish-eye, super vivid and monochrome. It also has GPS for geo-tagging your photos. All in all another good camera from Canon.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Like to push the limits? You can get more out of this compact camera.



CANON POWERSHOT SX230 HS

Price: ₹ 20,995

Specs: 12.1 MP; 3-inch LCD; 14X optical zoom; Full HD video recording; 3200 ISO; 16:9 aspect ratio; 223 gm.



QUALITY PRINTS

HP has shown time and again why it is the undisputed leader when it comes to home printing machines. Its premium C310 can print, scan and copy. To these, a fourth function has been added. It is called Web. You probably realise that a number of applications are making their way into devices such as the mobile phone and tablet. Well, this time such apps are available on a printer. The C310 is the first to boast some zingy applications. These can be accessed using Wi-Fi and a large touch screen that is placed in front of the printer. HP has installed some of its own applications, such as Snapfish and games like Web Sudoku. Nice pastime as the machine prints your documents. Keep that aside, this printer can squirt some very beautiful prints. At the best settings it can give you sharp, lively and clear prints. There is no ink bleed or blurred edges. Scan speeds are good too. In our tests, it fared as well as a laser printer. It spun out 16 pages per minute under draft black and 14 PPM in draft colour. While its price would deter many buyers, the discerning would not mind spending on this high-end printer.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Superb prints plus funky apps—worth its price.



HP C310

Price: ₹ 14,999

Specs: Scan, print, copy; Web applications; 16 PPM draft black; 14 PPM draft colour; A4 scanner and printer; Wi-Fi, USB; 28 W power consumption.

—SULABH PURI



CUTTING EDGE VIEW



EASY TO OPERATE

Kodak's Easy Share Max Z990 has some promising specs: 12 MP CMOS sensor, Schneider Kreuznach 30x optical zoom, manual control and 3-inch display. The well constructed body of the Easy Share has been designed to look like a DSLR. Done in traditional black, it is big though not bulky. Most of the controls including zoom, modes, video capture, etc are placed on the right top panel and rear panel, making it really easy to operate. The only control placed on the left is the button to switch between the electronic view finder and the LCD.

The camera provided plenty of options to play around. Along with the auto mode, a casual shooter can select from the lot

of regular scene modes. There is also an option of creative clicking, with night photography for moving objects, sports and portrait. Manual setting is available. This Easy Share produced some good images with rich colours. The noise levels were low, and the image stabiliser too did the job well. The only trouble we felt with this camera was the slow operation speed. As the camera uses four AA batteries to operate, a set of four rechargeable batteries and a charger are a part of the sales box.



BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Good, but consider the options in the market.

The Next Generation Philips monitors have made their debut in the country. The first one we review is from the ultra-thin series called Blade. It is a beautiful LED screen which is just 12.9 mm thin. Quickly unwrapping this magnificent marvel, we turned on the 21.5-inch display. Just as we expected, this monitor kept amazing us with the results on every test we ran. The colours are excellent. Blacks are deep and contrast is very nice. Both movies and games look vivacious and smooth in Full HD mode. The reason behind this is the integration of the 2 MS turbo response mode within the monitor. When turned on it automatically reduces jaggy edges from fast moving objects on the screen. And on top of everything, this monitor is great value for money too. It not only saves on initial investment but overall energy consumption as well. It only eats up 24 watts of energy when in operation, and just 0.3 watts in standby. All in all a great LED monitor for an excellent price.

BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Looking for new monitor? Your search ends here.



PHILIPS BLADE 21.5 INCH

Price: ₹ 9,900

Specs: Full HD resolution; 2 MS Response time; 12.9mm thin; 16:9 aspect ratio; DVI and VGA ports; 24 W power consumption

—SULABH PURI

SOUND UNWIRED

Creative has launched a pair of wireless headphones for audiophiles who would want the best audio reception from Bluetooth-ready devices. The shell is nice and comfortable to wear. A mixture of glossy black and dark grey matt finish runs all over the headphones. The right ear cup is where all the action is. It has all buttons that enable/disable it, plays/pauses music and increases/decreases volume. These are on-the-ear headphones that hug the organ well. They can't keep all the noise out but does cancel most of it. Pairing it with Bluetooth devices is not hard at all. To top it, the sound quality is out of this world. The high and low tones are clear. We were quite amazed at the bass and treble that such a small wireless headphone produced. However, for its price, one should also have got the facility to connect it to a normal player, which sadly this is not the case.



BAG IT OR JUNK IT?

Good for Bluetooth-ready mobile devices.



CREATIVE WP300 WIRELESS HEADPHONES

Price: ₹ 7,499

Specs: On-ear headphones; Volume/playback controls; Bluetooth; 102 DB sound pressure; 107 gm

—SULABH PURI



KODAK Z990

Price: ₹ 18,000

Specs: 12 MP; 30x optical zoom; 3-inch LCD display, electronic view finder; Full HD video capture; four AA rechargeable batteries.



—TEXT BY NIDHI SINGAL AND PICTURES BY RAJWANT RAWAT

A+ UP MY

SO YOU THOUGHT FACEBOOK WAS THE ULTIMATE SOCIAL MELA YOU COULD BE INVOLVED IN? TRY GOOGLE PLUS. YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED.

BY SULABH PURI



ark Zuckerberg has more billions in his bank account than Google's Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Is that why Google is hitting back with a service that might just take down the social networking supremo and put him out of business? Maybe that is what Page and Brin are envisaging, for Google's new Google Plus has arrived, and unlike the Californian company's other not-so-super projects (Wave and Buzz), this one looks positive.

WHAT IS GOOGLE PLUS?

Google Plus is Google's second social networking portal after Orkut. It integrates various services into one. It is a cross between Facebook and Twitter with a twist of its own. Just as everyone googles, almost everyone likely g-mails too. And Google knows this. This is its leverage. The company is bringing various services like Google Chat and Google Reader on one platform to provide Google users with something new and fresh in a social form.

Google has Orkut for social networking, so why Plus?

Well it's simple, people want something new. It's human nature to get bored with the old and to opt for novelty. Also Orkut isn't doing too well, with Facebook denting its business. Plus

is a new platform for Google to get its users onto an unmarked social platform which provides them a lot of freedom in usage and options.

WHAT IS NEW? WHY SHOULD I BE ON GOOGLE PLUS?

Well, if you have been an Orkut user till now, this platform is going to be quite new for you. If you have used Facebook and Twitter as well then you are on more familiar turf. However, Google Plus is quite easy to use and understand. At the moment you cannot get a new registration on your own. Like most Google products this one is also in the Beta stage and we do not see the Beta signs being removed any time soon. And if we go by Google history, Beta means by invitation only.

If you want to become a Plus person (that is how Google indicates a Plus user, a positive sign in front of your user name), you have to be invited by someone who is already registered with the service. You would need a valid Google account. Yes, your Gmail account will be adequate enough. To answer why you should be on Google Plus—because sooner or later each and every one of your friends, family and professional colleagues are going to be on it and you can't afford to be left out of this cosy cluster, can you?



SLEEVE

■ Circular Concept

Google Plus plays with the “circle” of friends tradition. It is a simple grouping method, where you can drag and drop contacts in a chosen circle. Unlike Facebook, where you have to scroll through pages of people and then select update and do three other things in between, Google has kept it simple. You can create friend groups called circles and name them. A few have been pre-created for you from your Gmail contacts. There are recommended names from your chat and other lists (on Plus or not) who can be dragged into any particular group. This way when you post a picture, video or even updates of your status, you can choose to which circles these should be shown and which should be ignored.

■ Virtual hangouts

Why do you just want to chat with friends using your social network chat interface when you can video chat with them? Hangout enables video chatting with groups of friends on Plus.

■ Android Integration

You must be familiar with Android, the lovely Google operating system for phones and tablets. A Google Plus application is already out for Android users to keep them constantly active on this social system.

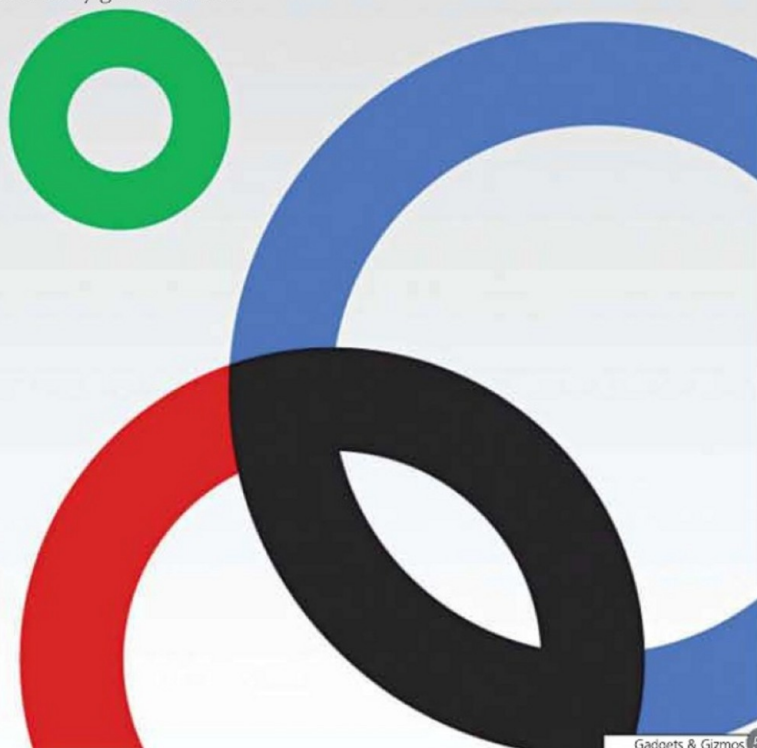
■ Everything Google in one

Plus is your one stop for everything Google. Plus brings together various

Google services such as GChat, Picasa and Google Reader under one roof. Google is still experimenting, so there is obviously more to come.

PLENTY MORE? WHAT IS LIKELY TO COME NEXT?

The “more” might start with advanced YouTube integration that will bring the world of videos to your Plus doorstep. Tablet integration will also get better. Also with Google Plus, users will get unlimited storage for photos. And don't forget Google's Chrome operating system. This OS will definitely get a taste of Plus services.



QUICK, WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

WHILE GOOGLE IS SYNONYMOUS WITH SEARCH ON THE INTERNET, MICROSOFT'S BING AND YAHOO! SEARCH TOO OFFER VERY GOOD FEATURES FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING INFORMATION.

BY NIDHI SINGAL

The Internet has become an intrinsic part of modern life. But it is not only because of instant messaging or social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. It is also the repository of information like never seen before. With a computer in front of you, you will not need to phone a friend or take wild guesses. Simply type your doubt in the search bar and within seconds, the digital gears wrench up all possible answers to

your query.

Acknowledging that a lot of computer time is devoted to info chase, Net search biggies are continuously enhancing the processes that make searches faster and easier. Google has dominated the search space for a long time now, but the other two leading names in this domain, Bing and Yahoo!, are now ready to take on the competition. Of the numerous features offered by these, here are just a few interesting ones that each engine is best at.



GOOGLE: NOW VOICE AND VISUAL

Undoubtedly, most of us find Google the most useful among search engine. But this doesn't mean that the company isn't working to develop it further. Taking into consideration the increasing user base and search patterns, Google keeps on introducing innovative services or tweaks the design. To avoid twiddling thumbs, Google has come up with 'Instant Search'. It is so innocuous that many people might have missed this utility. When you start typing your search terms in the search bar, Google's machines are already at work and give you options of what you may be looking for. These appear below the search bar. With every additional alphabet typed in, the engine keeps refreshing the results for you to see. Google says this innovation saves 2-5 seconds per search.

This service is not restricted to text search. Google has recently introduced two new search mediums—image and voice. Its instant image search is facilitated by pressing a small camera icon on the search bar. This allows a user to drag an image, paste a URL or even attach a picture and Google takes the visual input and churns out the results. For instance, if you paste a picture of the Qutub Minar, you will get references to Delhi, New Delhi, Indian history, Delhi tourist spots, etc. It is a quick way to identify things that you only have pictures of. Voice Search, a part of the mobile space on Android, has also made its entry on the Google search. Here, a user can vocalise the search instead of typing in the keywords. Available in a few selected countries, the microphone icon on the search bar will indicate the launch in the region. Remember, your laptop or desktop needs a

microphone for voice search.

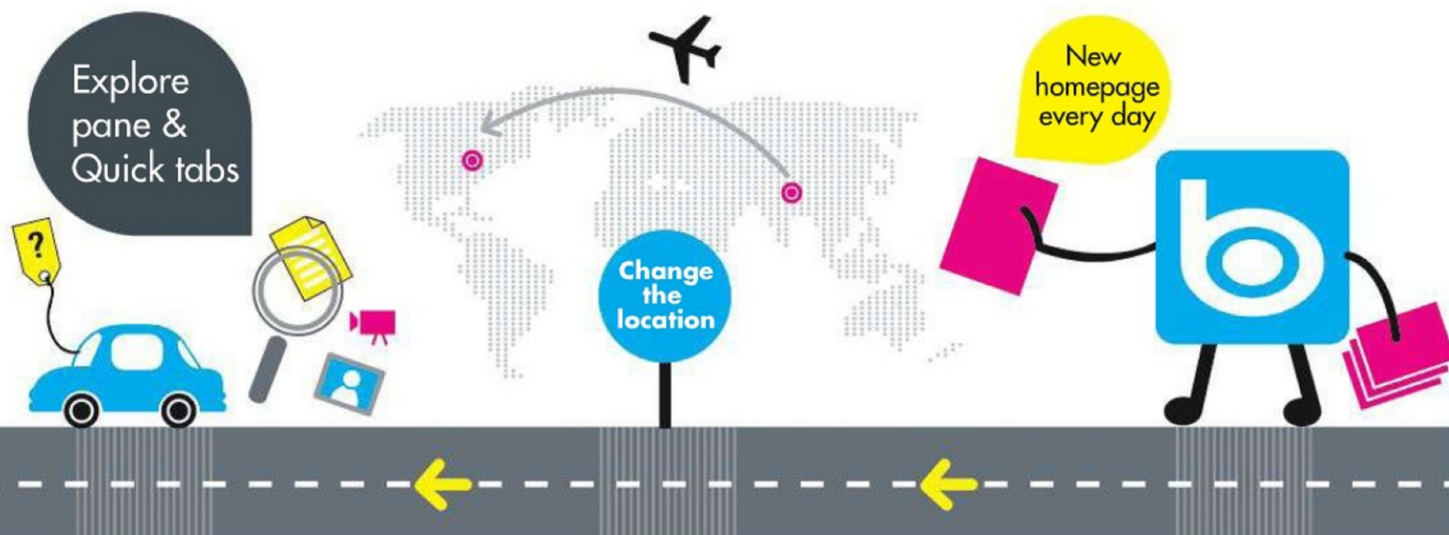
One other service that Google offers, and of which most of us are aware, is the music search for Indian user. It is restricted to Hindi songs but it is an interesting and useful search for a nation that hums collectively. Visit www.googlemusicsearch.com and key in the search words: name of the artist, song or even the album. A list will appear with tabs, including formats, videos, *amazon.com*, *ebay.com* and web. On the right side of the page, a media player appears. It will play demos that are 30 seconds to 1 minute long. Google's Real Time searches are aimed for fetching the most relevant and live updates for any queries.

BING: RELATED SEARCHES

With Google progressing and strengthening its hold in the search domain, Microsoft would be foolish if it sat idle. Launched two years ago, Microsoft's Bing has some interesting features. To start with, the homepage. While Google believes in doodles for celebrations and remembrances according to the occasion, Bing gives a fresh new look to its homepage every day. The idea behind having a new image every day is to make people aware of the range of content a search engine can look for.

All search engines simplify search by having various tabs—web, images, videos, maps, etc. With Bing, even while sitting in India, you can change the location to USA to access a few more options such as "shopping", "travel", "entertainment" and "search history". Holding the cursor over any of these terms prompts further results. For instance, when your cursor hovers over

GOOGLE HAS INTRODUCED TWO NEW SEARCH MEDIUMS—IMAGE AND VOICE. PASTE A PICTURE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT IN THE SEARCH BAR AND YOU GET THE RESULTS. YOU CAN ALSO "ASK" A QUESTION.



“image” Bing may ask you whether you want to “find computer wallpaper or black and white images”. With the video tab you can quickly find TV shows, watch music videos or see sports videos.

The search results have been customised to a great extent under the “Related Search” tab. So, for instance, if you search for a term like “Fresco”, the result list include details of restaurants of that name, the definition of the term, fresco painting, Mexican food, pizza, art, etc. The “Explore pane and Quick Tabs” show tabs below the search bar—while searching for a musician, you could find tabs showing video, images, shopping and blogs. The Autosuggest feature (for words and phrases) gets you results much faster. This works best when searching for a global term. The best is the video search that makes watching videos even easier by previewing the video for you.

Image Search include infinite scroll, eliminating the need to go to a new page for more results unlike on Google. Considered to be the best for browsing images, this search doesn’t really work well when looking for high resolution images. Bing is ideal for finding out the specifications of automobiles. For instance, typing in 2011 Toyota Camry Specs displays base retail price, fuel economy, base engine, etc in the US market.

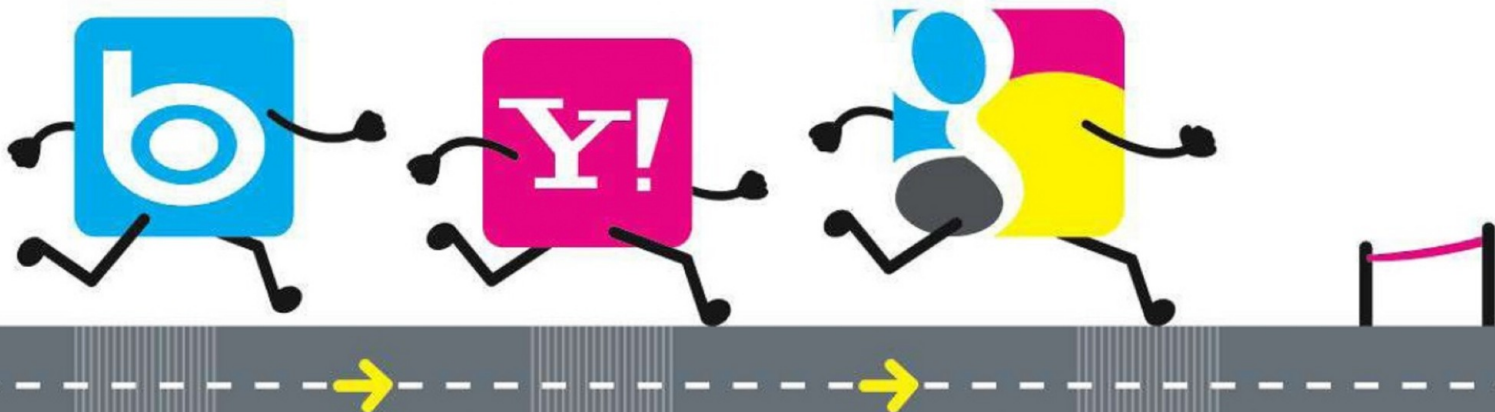
Other areas where Microsoft has focused on is Entertainment (for music, games, TV and movies) which organises everything under one hood. Travel is yet another feature that helps in users to book tickets with the help of a wise search on the basis of analysing different airfares and hotels. However, because sorting through search results can often be time-consuming, Bing organises popular results in a way designed to exhibit the answers people are looking for.

YAHOO!: SEARCH WITH THE WORLD

The Yahoo! Search home page (search.yahoo.com) with its white background resembles a Google Search page but here the web, image, video, news options lie above the search tab. Where Yahoo scores over Google and Bing Search is the Trending Search that appears on the homepage itself. A part of re-launched Yahoo! Clues, it allows users to see what other people are searching for on the web. Holding a mouse on any of the top trends displays a few results without moving away from the page—these include twitter results, view videos and images, personal websites of persons searched for, etc, wherever applicable. Another prominent feature that appears on the homepage is the Apps tab. This feature is aimed to let users discover apps from categories including games, entertainment, education, healthcare and fitness, social networking, productivity for or iPhone and Android smartphones. The “More” tab allows the user to customise search using sports, shopping, answers, directory, jobs, finance and even all search services. For any keyword searched on Yahoo!, a box appears with Amazon, Surf Canyon, One Riot, Google and Twitter icons. Another interesting feature of Yahoo! Search is its ability to send an email directly from the search bar. Log in using a Yahoo! ID, just type ‘!mail abc@gmail.com’ and hit enter. It will direct you to a compose mail.

Taking on Google’s Instant Search, Yahoo! has also introduced its Search Direct. Available in the USA at the moment, this service is believed to deliver answers and direct access to the websites before one completes the query or even hit the search button. You can also access Yahoo! search at search.yahoo.in but the above mentioned features of trends and apps are not yet available on the Indian page.

IMAGE SEARCH IN MICROSOFT BING HAS INDEFINITE SCROLL, SO NO NEW PAGES TO SURF. YAHOO! SEARCH HAS A TRENDING LIST OF WHAT PEOPLE ARE QUERYING ABOUT ACROSS THE WORLD.



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SMALL APPLICATIONS WITH HUGE UTILITY VALUES—SUCH SOFTWARE LIE HIDDEN IN THE INTERNET. HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST AT-NO-COST APPLICATIONS.

BY ASHISH BHATIA

Tucked away in the trillions of terabytes of this virtually unfathomable pit that is the Internet, lie tucked gazillions of awesome little applications and scraps of wonderful code, smothered by the sprawling mass of loud, screaming commercial software. In our mission to seek out brave, new utilities and applications, we routinely explore strange new downloads and boldly install what few men (and women) have run before. Here's a look at some of the *gratis* gems we've recently unearthed.



Hawkscope

<http://code.google.com/p/hawkscope/>

A nifty, fast-access navigation tool, Hawkscope allows you to drill down to files on your hard disk using the Windows system tray or Mac menu bar. You can also use a hotkey to invoke it. You can customise the utility to hide files, folders and drives that you don't want showing up. To top this, the open source app also supports plug-ins for Twitter integration, Gmail access, Google search, executing system commands and access to Delicious bookmarks. The cross platform utility is available for Windows, Macs and Linux.



OneSync

<http://code.google.com/p/onesync/>

This is a no-fuss, no-frills file synchronisation tool. Not only does it sync the folders you want on your local machine to network drives and portable media like external hard disks and pen drives, but it also does the job with Dropbox.

So what's the big deal with the Dropbox shimmy? Well, OneSync does this without your having to manually copy the said files to the Dropbox folder. The .net based synchronisation works only on Windows machines.

Duplicate Commander

<http://rayburnsoft.net/dc.html>

As hard disks get more and more capacious, we tend to get more liberal and carefree—not just with the number of files we dump in them, but also with the number of copies of the same files. The result? Multiple copies of the same file lurking in various corners of the drive. DC serves an able little search engine for ferreting out such dupes—based on filename, filename and extension, filename and size, filename and timestamps. It gives you the option to exclude specific filetypes as well as folders. And it can even nose around for particular file extensions or file size range. The duplicates can be

copied or moved to a folder—for deletion or manual sifting. Then it can convert duplicates to NTFS hard links (a link file that points to a single copy of the file).

MiniBin

<http://www.e-sushi.net/minibin/>

Like your desktop to be spick and span but want to don't hide the recycle bin because you need to reach into to it every now and again? Or, hate the extra clicks required to get to the recycle bin each time you want to trash a few files, empty it or retrieve a file or two? Once installed, MiniBin here can ease all the aforementioned situations since it always sits pretty for pronto access in your system tray. You don't need to wade your way to the Windows desktop to get to it: Right click on the MB systray icon to open it; double-click to empty.

Dropbox Screen Grabber

<http://is.gd/wJRfod>

Dropbox is a utility that hardly needs an introduction today. It's proficiency at syncing files between computers as well as devices like smartphone, tablets

and even iPods is making it almost ubiquitous.

So it is hardly surprising to see other utilities like Screen Grabber piggybacking on Dropbox. Just as the name suggests SG lets you take screenshots of your desktop—or active window—by means of a hotkey and automates the process of saving the grab in your Dropbox account's public folder for sharing with others. Not just this, the associated Dropbox URL for the image is also automatically copied to your clipboard for pasting into an email or IM message. The application works with all flavours of Windows.

USB Alert

<http://www.usbalert.nl>

Whoever said that “happiness is good health and a bad memory” clearly had not experienced the anguish of forgetfully leaving a USB pen drive plugged into a computer after shutting it down. Targeted at everyone who uses more than one computer and copies data between them, USB Alert is a diminutive ute that warns you to take the drive out with an alarm and onscreen message before leaving the system. The program is also available in a portable version that runs off the USB stick, thereby allowing you to install it into whichever PC you use. People with PCs placed under the desk or in out-of-line-of-sight areas will find USB Alert very useful.

Hidelt

<http://is.gd/oqzxw5>

Keep a lot of apps open and get irritated searching for them in your taskbar? Just download Hidelt. This handy, built-for-Win7 utility lets you stow away any application to the system tray by simply right clicking on its minimise button. To call up an application from the system tray, you need to right click on the Hidelt icon and select what you want. This keeps your taskbar tidy and the more frequently apps more easily accessible.

CAPTURING NATURE'S CELEBS

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CAN BE THE MOST SATISFYING WAY OF BEING ONE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD. BUT IT TAKES A LOT OF PATIENCE AND A WHOLE LOAD OF IMAGES BEFORE YOU CAN GET A GOOD SHOT.

BY TUSHAR KANWAR



hoot wildlife with a camera, not with a gun. Pity the wise person who coined this popular cliché—he forgot to mention that it can be pretty difficult to get that perfect shot out in the wild. After all, animals rarely pose for the camera. If you’ve made many a trip to wildlife parks and sanctuaries and come a cropper in the photo department, here are simple techniques and some tips to keep in mind while wielding the camera in the forests.

1

Patience: Forget fancy cameras and lens, the first thing you should pack into your bag is patience, and oodles of it! Whether you’re trying to capture a herd of elephants at a watering hole or the squirrel in your neighborhood park, you cannot force nature to turn this way or that, or say “cheese”. You have to be there and ready when they decide to do something interesting. And remember, it takes a lot of time to get a good wildlife shot, even longer for a great one!

2

Understand species behaviour: Patience is not all wasted





time. The longer you spend with one particular animal or herd, the better you know them and their habits, including the personalities of different members in the group. This helps you anticipate what they might do in a certain situation or time of day, such as when the cubs are more playful or when the elders hunt. Also, pick the right time of day—keep in mind that morning and evening light provides a softer perspective whereas the afternoon sun casts strong shadows on and around the subject.

E

Keep shooting: Don't scrimp on batteries and memory cards when you're out shooting wildlife. While you may be able to predict the decisive moment in a wildlife shot, more often than not, the perfect shot can be a lot about chance as well. Continuous shooting, extra batteries and many fast memory cards will improve your odds of getting an effective image. Most professional photographers click hundreds of photos—and pick only 5-10 portfolio shots from those. Also remember, avoid looking at the LCD screen after every shot. Not only does that waste battery power, but it will also cause you to miss great opportunities.

L

Gear up: Depending on where you're shooting, animals may or may not be used to human company. A good telephoto lens is important so as not to disturb the animal in its habitat (trust your safari guide to recommend a safe distance). If you're shooting big animals, a 300 mm f/2.8 lens will suffice, but birds and shy animals need longer lens, possibly 400-600mm. Don't even bother to check the prices of the latter online if you're a casual shooter; they run well into six figures. Fortunately, there are a number of good lens rental firms coming up all over the country. This is a much more economical alternative to buying the lens. And always remember, long lenses need support—the longer the lens the more susceptible you are to camera movement, and with really long lenses, even the slightest motion can cause blur.

Invest in a good tripod. Added bonus: your arms and shoulders will thank you for a painless sojourn.

S

Shutter speed is key: Whether you have a DSLR or a superzoom camera, shutter speed is your best friend when out in the wild. Fast shutter speed counters camera shake at long focal lengths at which you would be shooting, and since animals move rapidly and unpredictably, it also helps freeze the action. Put simply, shoot at the absolute fastest shutter speed your camera can manage, all the time. Many pros recommend setting your camera to aperture priority mode and set the aperture to the highest setting available, which forces the camera to use the fastest shutter speed. You can also experiment with the ISO settings on your camera (ISO measures a camera's sensitivity to light) – it can be a great ally when you want to pull out a little more shutter speed even in broad daylight. But use ISO bumping with caution – too much and you will introduce digital noise into your photos.

E

Focus, focus, focus: First, start by finding a good background, the simpler the better as it helps focus attention on the real subject. Next, frame your picture to include enough of the background to establish context, but remember to focus on the eyes and the face. Like human portraits, most viewers will notice faces first and look for the eyes. The image, in most cases, will not be as strong or captivating if the eyes are not in focus.

7

Watch the Little Guys: There's too much of a 'big-cat' temptation when out shooting in the wild, but realistically speaking, tiger, lion and leopard sightings are rare. Don't forget to keep your eyes open for smaller animals and plants which may make for very interesting shots while you're waiting for something else to happen.



IN RIGHT DIRECTION

IF YOU ARE AN AMATEUR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, YOU COULDN'T DO BETTER THAN TO GET THESE GADGETS TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER.



1 SONY XR550E CAMCORDER
Price: ₹ 59,990

Whenever one wants to buy a video camera the first name that pops into anybody's head is Sony. Why, its Handycam has even become a synonym for a camcorder. Sony's XR550 is a top of the line camcorder that can take videos in Full HD resolution. The colours are vivid, ghosting is not a problem and the sharpness is never blunted even when panning quickly. With the active mode on, you can zoom to as high as 10X optically. The XR550 also has 240 GB hard drive for storage and a bright 3.5-inch touch LCD to preview videos and images.

Specs: 12 MP; 3.5-inch touch LCD screen; 10X optical zoom; 240 GB hard drive; Full HD video recording; 500 gm weight.



2 BOSE AE2
Price: ₹ 8,100

When it comes to audio reproduction, Bose does it best. The AE2 is an affordable pair of headphones from Bose whose forte is resonance. Though these are not marketed as noise cancelling ones, when worn they cut out ambient noise to a high extent. The sound is clear and loud—just what you need when recording. It can be connected to any video camera with a 3.5 mm jack. Comfortable to wear, these headphones are light and okay for prolonged use. For easy transportation, the AE2 comes with a string bag and can be folded and kept in the camera bag.

Specs: Passive noise cancellation; Foldable design; 3.5 mm audio jack; 138.9 gm.

3 SENNHEISER EW 100-ENG G3 WIRELESS MICROPHONE
Price: ₹ 50,000

Sound is the most important aspect of a movie after video. If the sound is not crisp then the movie suffers. To capture clear words and sounds, one needs a good microphone. Sennheiser's 100-ENG is a lapel wireless microphone that provides excellent flexibility for both indoor and outdoor shoots. It has a rigid metal body which houses a single colour LCD screen for transmitter activity and features. It is very user friendly—just slot in a couple of AA batteries and you are ready to transmit and record audio.

Specs: 1680 transmitting frequencies; 12 presets; 80-18000 Hz frequency response; 130 db SPL; 160 gm.



4 FINAL CUT STUDIO
Price: ₹ 55,500

There are dozens of video editing softwares out there, but none come close to Final Cut Pro. Compatible only with the Mac OS, this is an application used widely by most video editors. Well-suited for the latest iMacs and Macbook Pros, Final Cut Pro takes full advantage of a new configuration. The timeline preview is smooth even when editing high definition content. Render times are low as well. A lot of effects and transitions comes in the box and more can be bought. You need not be a rocket scientist to work with this video editor.



5 APPLE MACBOOK PRO 17 INCH

Price: ₹ 1,42,900

G&G had rated this machine at 4.5 GG stars. So this excellent laptop can replace your desktop but is also eminently portable. It scored 215 points on the Xbench test, the highest we have obtained on any Macbook Pro. To store high definition video, it has 750 GB hard drive. The large LED screen is great to edit videos on. The battery lasts for 7 long hours. It even has 4 GB RAM and a 6700 series AMD graphic card that lowers rendering times with FCP.

Specs: 17-inch display; 2.2 GHz Quad-Core Intel Core i7; 750 GB HDD; 4 GB RAM; AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics card

6 VELBON VIDEOMATE 607/F HEAVY DUTY TRIPOD

Price: ₹ 7,776

A tripod is a must-have accessory for a director. It not only helps keep the camera stable but also provides a firm platform when one needs to move away from the camera to explain something to the protagonists. Velbon has been making such sturdy tripods and one that can handle a camcorder is the Videomate 607/F. It has strengthened steel legs, fluid pan head, 4-way position control and can be extended three times to a height of 64.3 inches (the lowest point is 25 inches). It weighs 2.5 kg. It has an auto lock system that keeps the camcorder safe on its head.



—SULABH PURI

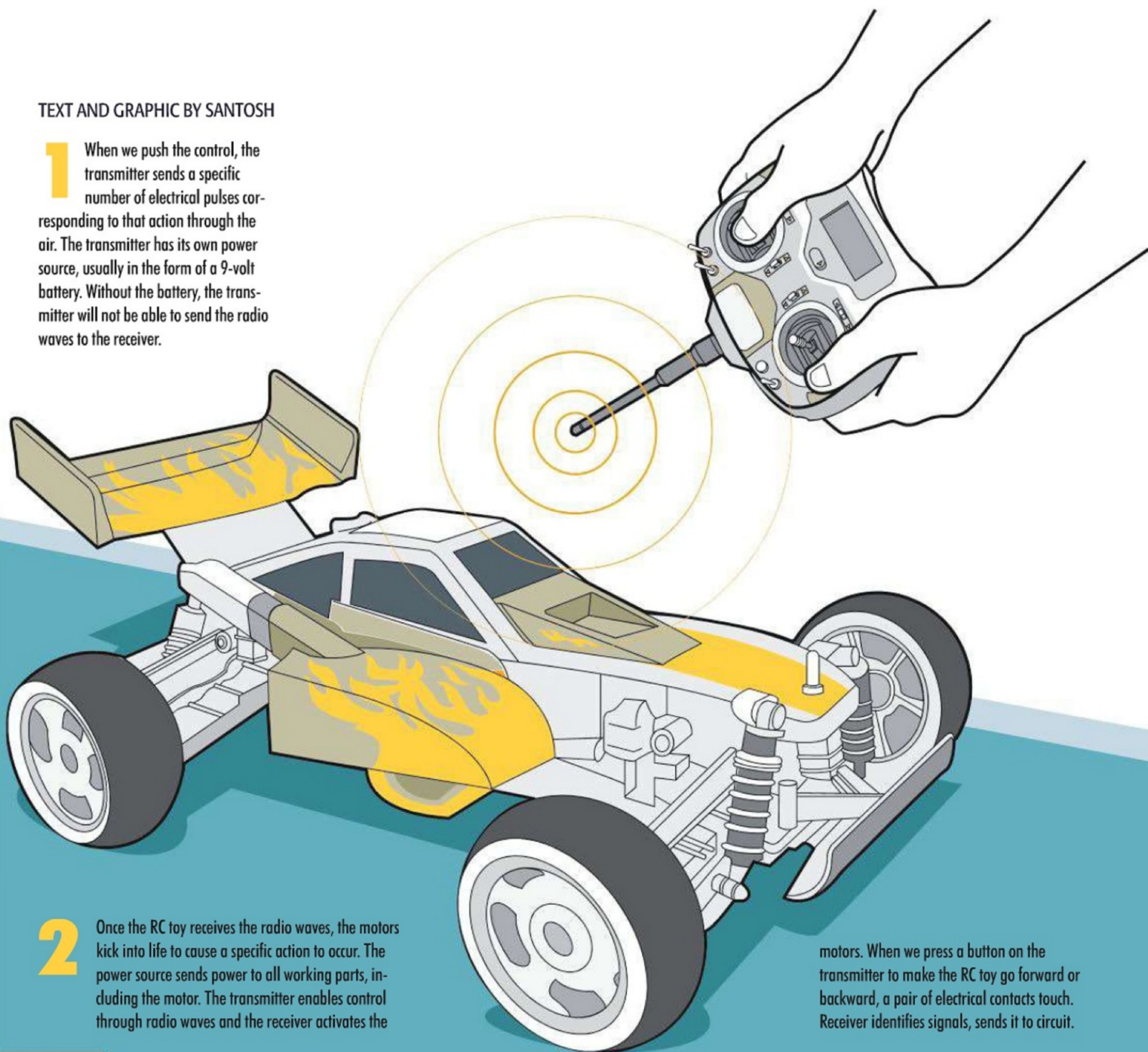


PLAYING WITH WAVES

RADIO-CONTROLLED OR REMOTE-CONTROLLED TOYS, POPULARLY CALLED RC TOYS, ARE SELF-POWERED AND CAN BE CONTROLLED FROM A DISTANCE USING A REMOTE THAT WORKS WITH RADIO WAVES.

TEXT AND GRAPHIC BY SANTOSH

1 When we push the control, the transmitter sends a specific number of electrical pulses corresponding to that action through the air. The transmitter has its own power source, usually in the form of a 9-volt battery. Without the battery, the transmitter will not be able to send the radio waves to the receiver.



2 Once the RC toy receives the radio waves, the motors kick into life to cause a specific action to occur. The power source sends power to all working parts, including the motor. The transmitter enables control through radio waves and the receiver activates the

motors. When we press a button on the transmitter to make the RC toy go forward or backward, a pair of electrical contacts touch. Receiver identifies signals, sends it to circuit.

1

Transmitter

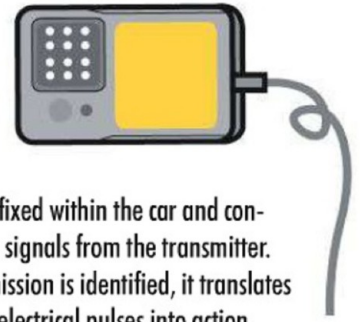
The remote control contains a radio transmitter which operates on a particular frequency that the receiver is designed to receive.



2

Receiver

The receiver is fixed within the car and constantly receives signals from the transmitter. When a transmission is identified, it translates the number of electrical pulses into action.



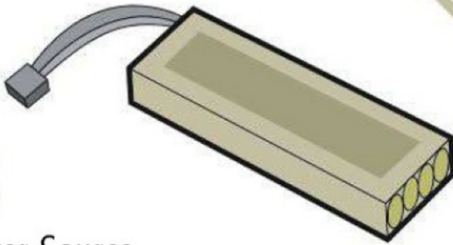
4

PARTS OF AN RC TOY

3

Power Source

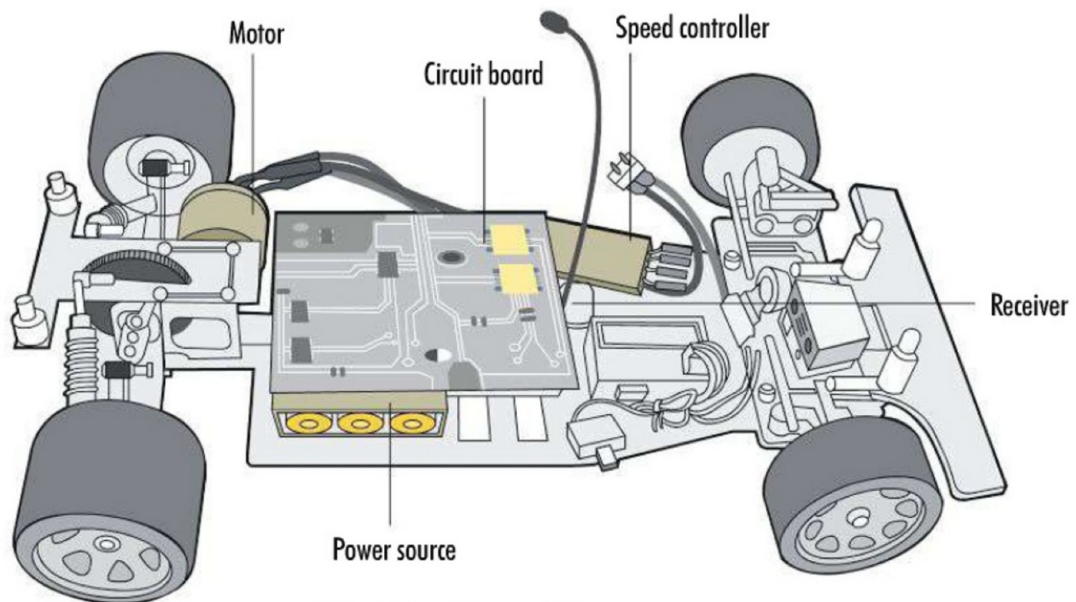
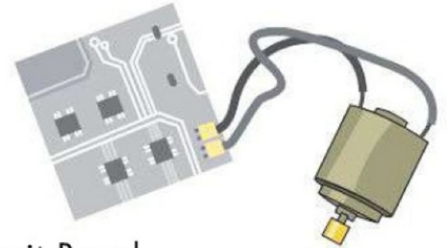
All remote control cars require a power source. Rechargeable batteries power small electric motors. Alternatively, some use small internal combustion engines.



4

Motor and Circuit Board

The motor is responsible for the turning motions of the toy while the circuit board works like a pool through which all commands go on to specific parts.



A look inside an RC toy car



3

Circuit board translates the number of electrical pulses (signals) into action. Full-function controllers have six controls and these work through following the pulse sequences:

1. Forward: 16 pulses
3. Forward left: 28 pulses
5. Reverse left: 52 pulses

2. Reverse: 40 pulses
4. Forward right: 34 pulses
6. Reverse right: 46 pulses



SECURITY WEBCAM

HOW TO RIG YOUR COMPUTER WEBCAM AS A SECURITY CAMERA FOR OCCASIONAL USE

BY HARPREET SINGH



If your need for security cameras or surveillance is limited to emergencies, you don't need to spend thousands of rupees on a professional security system. It is possible to use a relatively much cheaper webcam, along with free open source software, as a security camera. If you have a laptop or a computer with a webcam, you

don't need to buy any other gadget to turn your computer into a security camera. Using your webcam as a home security camera is quite simple, and this guide will show you to accomplish that feat with nothing more than few minutes to spare.

TIPS

- You may need a USB extension cord to safely monitor an area without having your computer visible.
- There are wireless webcams available these days if you want a 100 per cent wireless system.
- With the help of software like EyeSpyFX and EvoCam you can even monitor your webcam's feed from a cell phone.
- You can also upload your captured frames to a website using FTP upload or email the file to yourself.



STEPS

1

Install the webcam and accompanying software using the manufacturer's instructions.

2

Install open source free webcam security software such as Dorgem or Yawcam.

3

Open the "options" or "settings" menu in the security software and select the choices necessary to enable motion recording of webcam images.

4

Position the webcam in a location that has a clear view of the area you wish to monitor.

5

Access the webcam security software to view the videos and images that were recorded while you were away.

SIZE	RESPONSE TIME	SOUND	DYNAMIC CONTRAST RATIO	PRICE	PROS	CONS
LCD TELEVISIONS						
2 LG 42LE7500	2.4ms	10W + 10W	5,00,000:1	₹ 99,990	Design, brilliant resolution	Sound
3 Samsung UA40B6000VR	4ms	20W	—	₹ 1,25,000	Style, sound	Price
4 VU LED-40T28GP	6ms	185W	10,00,000:1	₹ 70,000	Internet-ready, price	Response time
5 Samsung LA46A650A1	4 ms	20W	50,000:1	₹ 1,55,000	Picture quality	Weight, price
6 LG 42LH70VR Scarlet 2.0	2.4 ms	20W	1,00,000:1	₹ 79,990	Design, contrasts	None
7 LG Jazz Theatre LH60	2 ms	700W	1,50,000:1	₹ 76,990	Sound, contrasts	Price
8 BenQ SQ4321	6.5ms	205W	5,000:1	₹ 49,999	Picture, sound	Design
9 Phillips 42PFL9703 / 98	2 ms	30W	30,000:1	₹ 1,29,990	Good response time, sound	Price
10 Philips Cinema 21:9	—	2 x 12W	—	₹ 4,50,000	Great images	Price

SIZE	RESOLUTION	CONTRAST RATIO	SOUND (WATTS)	PRICE	PROS	CONS
PLASMA TELEVISIONS						
2 Samsung P542A10C1	1024x768 pixels	1,00,000:1	20	₹ 58,000	Contrast ratio	Price
3 LG 42PG61UR	720 pixels	2.49	50	₹ 65,000	Sound	Resolution
4 Panasonic VIERA TH- 42PV8D	1024x768 pixels	15,000:1	20	₹ 59,000	Contrast ratio	Price
5 Hitachi P42E101A	1024x1080 pixels	10,000:1	20	₹ 82,000	Picture and contrast	Connectivity
6 Samsung PS50A550S1	1920x1080 pixels	1,000,000:1	20	₹ 1,40,000	Size	Weight
7 LG 60PG70FR	1920x1080 pixels	10,00,000:1	20	₹ 33,0000	Great contrast	Super-heavy
8 Panasonic TH 65PV850D	1920x1080 pixels	30,000:1	31	₹ 4,99,900	Picture resolution	Weight, price
9 Hitachi P60X01A	1920x1080 pixels	8,000:1	27	₹ 4,50,000	Clear and Crisp images	Weight, price
10 Samsung PS 50A450P1	1365x768 pixels	1,000,000:1	20	₹ 1,27,000	Great pictures and colours	None

DISPLAY	PROCESSOR	CONNECTIVITY	PRICE	PROS	CONS
TABLETS					
2 Samsung Galaxy tab	1 GHz	3G, Wi-Fi	₹23,900	Good Screen, Price	-
3 Dell Streak	1GHz	Wi-Fi, Bluetooth	₹ 35,000	Amazing form factor	Price
4 Ater Itania	1 GHz	USB, HDMI,BT, Wi-Fi	₹ 27,990	Good Built, Easy to use	less memory
4 OlivePad VT100	600MHz	3G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth	₹ 22,000	Affordable	Filmsy design
5 HCL ME Tablet AM7	800 Hz	3G, BT, Wi-Fi	₹ 22,990	Affordable	Less memory
6 Binatone Homesurf 7	667 MHz	Wi-Fi, USB	₹ 6,999	Extremely affordable, LCD	No 3G



**1. SAMSUNG
UA55D8000YR**
Price: ₹ 2,49,990

Specs: 55-inch 3D LED panel; 1080p Full HD; 10 W x 2 speakers; Mega dynamic contrast ratio; 4 HDMI; 2 USB ports; 18.6 kg



**1. PANASONIC
P50VT20D**
Price: ₹ 1,99,000

Specs: 50-inch display; Full HD resolution; 5,00,000:1 contrast ratio; 2.1 channel sound output; 30.5 kg



1. APPLE IPAD 2 64 GB 3G
Price: ₹ 46,900

Specs: 9.7-inch display; 1GHz dual core processor; iOS 4.3; Wi-Fi, 3G, 64GB


LAPTOPS

	PROCESSOR	GRAPHICS CARD	RAM	HDD	DISPLAY	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Sony Vaio CW16FG	Intel Centrino C2D 2.53 GHz	nVidia GT230M	4 GB	320GB	14-inch	₹ 57,000	High-end specs	None
3 Sony Vaio Z117	Intel i7 processor, 2.66Hz	nVidia GT330M	8GB	64GB x 4SSD	13.1-inch	₹ 1,59,900	Super-fast	Price
4 Lenovo Y460	Intel Core i5 M430 2.27GHz	ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5650	4GB	500GB	14-inch	₹ 57,390	Multimedia	Avg battery
5 MacBook Air	Intel Core Processor 1.86GHz	NVIDIA GeForce 320M	2GB	256GB SSD	13-inch	₹ 98,900	Style, performance	None
6 Sony Vaio S VPCSB 16FGP	Intel core i5 2.5 GHz	AMD Radeon 6470 HD 500 MB	4 GB	320 GB	13.3 inch	₹ 56,990	Style, performance	price
7 Apple Mac Book Pro	Intel C2D, 2.66 GHz	NVIDIA Ge Force 9600M	4GB	320GB	15-inch	₹ 1,48,800	Performance	Price
8 Lenovo G560	Intel Pentium P6100	Onboard	2GB	500GB	15.6-inch	₹ 31,990	Performance	Battery life
9 Dell Inspiron N5010	Intel Core i5, 2.4GHz	onboard	4GB	500GB	15.6-inch	₹ 36,250	Storage, connectivity	Heavy
10 HP Probook 6440b	Intel i5, 2.4GHz	onboard	2GB	250 GB	14-inch	₹ 45,000	Fast processing	No graphic card



1. DELL XPS 15 L501X
Price: ₹ 75,933

Specs: 15.6-inch LED display; Intel Core i7 Q740 1.73 GHz (8 cores); 4 GB RAM; 500 GB HDD; NVIDIA 2 GB GT 435 M graphics card; JBL speakers



1. ACER ASPIRE ONE D250
Price: ₹ 18,651

Specs: 10.2 inch display; Intel Atom 1.66GHz processor; 1GB RAM; 160GB hard disk



1. ALIENWARE AURORA
Price: ₹ 1,40,000 onwards

Specs: Intel Core i7-975 processor; 12GB DDR3 SDRAM 1333MHz; 1TB SATA HDD; 2x GTX250 nVIDIA graphics cards; 19-in-1 card reader

NETBOOKS

	PROCESSOR	GRAPHICS CARD	RAM	HDD	DISPLAY	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Samsung N210	Intel Atom, 1.6GHz	On board	1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 20,952	Design, style	None
3 Sony Vaio W	Intel Atom, 1.66 GHz	On board	1 GB	160 GB	10.1 -inch	₹ 29,990	Good screen	Price
4 Sony Vaio P	Intel Atom, 1.60 GHz	Intel GMA 500	2GB	64GB	8-inch	₹ 64,990	Compact	Price
5 Lenovo S10	Intel Atom, 1.60 GHz	Intel GMA 950	1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 21,990	Good design	None
6 Samsung N150	Intel Atom, 1.66GHz		1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 17,999	Battery life, price	Low RAM
7 Dell Inspiron Mini 10	Intel Atom, 1.60 GHz	Intel GMA 500	1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 21,550	Handy design	None
8 Sony Vaio X	Intel Atom, 2GHz		2GB	128GB	11.1-inch	₹ 84,990	Super slim, RAM	Expensive
9 Samsung N140	Intel Atom, 1.6GHz	Intel GMA 950	1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 24,999	Good multimedia support	Price
10 Asus S101H	Intel Atom	—	1GB	160GB	10.1-inch	₹ 27,990	Style	Price, low RAM

DESKTOPS

	PROCESSOR	GRAPHICS CARD	RAM	HDD	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Apple iMac 27 inch	Intel C2D 3.06GHz	ATI Radeon HD4670	4GB	1TB	₹ 89,900	Brilliant resolution, performance	Price
3 HP Elite M 9400	Intel C2D, 2.66 GHz	nVidia 9300GE	2048MB	320GB (7200rpm)	₹ 46,490	Good graphics	Low RAM
4 Apple i Mac Desktop	Intel C2D, 3.06 GHz	nVidia GT 130	4GB	1TB (7200rpm)	₹ 1,15,180	RAM, HDD	Price
5 Lenovo Idea Centre A600	Intel C2D, 2.00 GHz	ATI Radeon HD3650	2GB	640GB (7200rpm)	₹ 69,500	Gesture gaming capability	RAM
6 Dell Studio Hybrid	Intel C2D	Intel GMA X3100	4GB	320GB (5400rpm)	₹ 39,900	Super-compact	No monitor
7 HP Touch Smart IQ500	Intel C2D, 2.16 GHz	nVidia 9300M - GS	4096MB	500GB (7200rpm)	₹ 89,990	Performance, storage	Price
8 HP Pavilion Slimline	Intel C2D, 2.66 GHz	nVidia 7100	2048MB	320GB (7200rpm)	₹ 40,690	Design	Low RAM
9 Acer Revo R3600	Intel Atom, 1.6 GHz	nVidia 9400	2GB	160GB	₹ 25,325	Compact size	No monitor
10 BenQ nScreen i91	AMD Sempron 1.5GHz	ATI X1200	1GB	160 GB	₹ 26,999	Affordable	Low performance

	STORAGE MEDIA	OPTICAL ZOOM	LCD	VIDEO RESOLUTION	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
CAMCORDERS								
2 Samsung HMX-H200	Flash memory	20x	2.7-inch	1920x 1080 pixels	271 g	₹ 20,990	Crisp video	None
3 Canon HF200	Flash memory upto 32GB	15x	2.7-inch	1920x 1080 pixels	340g	₹ 55,995	Video, LCD	None
4 CPanasonic SDR H101	80GB HDD	78x	2.7-inch	720 x 576 pixels	-	₹ 19,990	Zoom	No HD
5 Creative Vado HD	4GB	-	2-inch	720p	93g	₹ 14,999	Affordable	Not Full HD
6 Sony HDR -TG 1E	Memory Stick Micro	10x	2.7-inch	1920x1080 pixels	240g	₹39,990	Compact, style	Low MP
7 Samsung VP - HMW20C	Flash Memory	10x	2.7-inch	1920x1080 pixels	456g	₹ 18,500	Full HD	Bit bulky
8 Sony XR100E	80GB HDD	10x	2.7-inch	1920x1080 pixels	330g	₹ 39,990	Storage, video	Price
9 Panasonic SDR - H60	60GB HDD	50x	2.7-inch	640x480 pixels	340g	₹ 34,990	Hybrid storage	Resolution
10 Canon HV30	Mini DV	10x	2.7-inch	1920x1080 pixels	535g	₹ 74,995	Video quality	Expensive



1. SONY XR550E
Price: ₹ 59,990

Specs: 3.5-inch touch screen LCD; 10x optical zoom; 240GB hard drive; Full HD video recording; 500 gm



1. CANON 7D
Price: ₹ 1,31,995 with kit

Specs: 18 MP; 3-inch LCD; 6400 ISO Max; 1080p video; 820 gm



1. SONY TX9
Price: ₹ 21,999

Specs: 12.2 MP; 4x optical zoom; 3.5-inch touch-screen LCD; 3D sweep panorama; 1080p video recording; 3200 ISO; 133 gm

	MEGA PIXELS	ISO SPEED	LCD SIZE	PICTURE RESOLUTION(MAX)	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
DIGITAL SLRS								
2 Nikon D300S	12.3 MP	6400	3-inch	4288 x 2848 pixels	840g	₹ 94,950	Pro quality	Less MP
3 Nikon D7000	16.2	25,600	3 inch	-	690g	₹ 89,950	Pictures, ISO	-
4 Canon 60D	18 MP	6400	3-inch	5184 x 3456 pixels	755g	₹ 77,195	Best MP	Price
5 Sony NEX 5	14.2MP	12800	3-inch	4592x3056 pixels	296g	₹ 34,990	Pro quality, compact	-
6 Nikon D90	12.3 MP	3200	3-inch	4288x2848 pixels	620g	₹ 83,950	Good images	Less MP
7 Canon 550D	18 MP	6400	3-inch	5184 x 3456 pixels	475g	₹ 51,995	Quality, video	None
8 Sony Alpha SLT - A33	14.2 MP	12,800	3-inch	4272x2848 pixels	433g	₹ 37,990	Images	Electronic VF
9 Canon EOS 1000D	10.1 MP	1600	2.5-inch	3888x2592 pixels	450g	₹ 27,995	Price	Less MP, ISO
10 Samsung NX10	14.6MP	6400	3-inch	—	353g	₹ 42,990	Compact, attachments	

	MEGA PIXELS	OPTICAL ZOOM	LCD SIZE	PICTURE RESOLUTION(MAX)	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
DIGITAL POINT & SHOOT AND PROSUMER								
2 Canon PowerShot SX30IS	14MP	35x	2.7-inch	4320x324 pixels	600g	₹ 28,990	Zoom, quality	Weight
3 Samsung WB600	12MP	15x	3-inch	4000x3000 pixels		₹ 19,900	Zoom, quality	None
4 Canon SX200IS	12.1 MP	12x	3-inch	4000x3000 pixels	220g	₹ 22,995	LCD and zoom	None
5 Fujifilm Finepix S3300	14MP	26x	3-inch	4000x3000 pixels	445g	₹ 14,999	Quality, price	-
6 Canon PowerShot S95	10 MP	3.8x	3-inch	3648 x 2736 pixels	193g	₹ 26,995	Compact DSLR	Expensive
7 Canon PowerShot G11	10 MP	5x	2.8-inch	3648 x 2746 pixels	355g	₹ 31,995	Rugged body	Low MP
8 Fujifilm AV200	14 MP	3X	2.7 inch	4288 x 3216 pixels	168g	₹ 5,499	Picture Quality, price	non
9 Panasonic S3	14.1 MP	3x	2.7-inch	-	117g	₹ 7,990	Affordable	Keys
10 Fujifilm FinePix Z700EXR	12MP	5x	3.5-inch	-	141g	₹ 21,990	EXR tech	Battery life

HOME THEATRE SYSTEMS

	TOTAL RMS	SPEAKER CHANNEL SYSTEM	HDMI / USB	FM TUNER	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Bose Lifestyle V35	—	5.1	Yes/Yes	Yes	₹ 2,24,888	Excellent surround	Price
3 Sony DZ810	1000W	5.1	Yes/Yes	Yes	₹ 29,990	Sound, design	Price
4 Phillips HTS 8140 / 98	—	2.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 59,990	Looks, performance	None
5 LG HT903TA	1000 W	5.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 26,990	Good sound	Price
6 Bose Lifestyle 48 DVD Ent System	—	5.1	Yes / —	—	₹ 2,58,638	Very good looking	Heavy
7 Sony DAV - DZ790K	1000 W	5.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 29,990	Good surround	Price
8 Samsung HT-X725	800W	5.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 19,990	Good for all round use	None
9 Samsung HT TX 715T	800 W	5.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 42,900	Looks	Heavy
10 Sony DAV DZ390K	1000 W	5.1	Yes / Yes	Yes	₹ 19,990	Surround, USB support	Heavy

1. PHILIPS HTS 9140 SOUNDBAR Price: ₹ 71,900

Specs: 3D Blu-ray player; built-in decoders include Ambisound, Dolby Digital, DTS; 600W amplifier; Net TV; Wi-Fi upgradeable; HDMI, YUV, Composite, optical and RCA



PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYERS

	SIZE	TOTAL CAPACITY	BATTERY LIFE	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Viewsonic VPD400	4.3-inch	8GB	12 hrs audio, 6 hrs video	140 g	₹ 9,000	Huge screen, battery	No touch
3 Sony E454/N	2-inch	8GB	50 hrs audio	58g	₹ 6,990	Compact, style	None
4 Cowon iAudio 9	2-inch	4GB	7 hrs audio	40g	₹ 6,500	Lightweight	Low space
5 Creative Zen X-Fi2	3-inch	8GB	8 hrs audio,	75g	₹ 8,000	Good screen	Battery life
6 Cowon O2	4.3-inch	32GB	18 hrs audio, 8 hrs video	205g	₹ 17,000	Excellent screen	Weight
7 Samsung YP P3	—	16GB	30 hrs audio, 5 hrs video	96g	₹ 14,900	Looks, capacity	Interface
8 Phillips SA 2825	—	2GB	20 hours	2 g	₹ 2,999	Value for money	None
9 Viewsonic VPD500	5-inch	8GB	15 hrs audio, 4 hrs video	200g	₹ 12,000	Big screen	No touch
10 Apple iPod Nano 8 GB	2-inch	8GB	24 hrs audio, 4 hrs video	36.80g	₹ 8,200	Battery life, interface	Relatively old

1. APPLE IPOD 32GB Price: ₹ 19,900

Specs: 3.5-inch touchscreen; twin cameras; HD recording; 32 GB onboard memory; Wi-Fi; 40 hrs audio playback; 115 g m



MUSIC SYSTEMS

	TOTAL RMS	SPEAKERS	DISC PLAYER	TAPE DECK	WEIGHT	PRICE
2 Phillips FWD 876 / 98	600 W	4	1 disc tray	—	35.7 kg (with box)	₹ 25,999
3 Panasonic SC VK870	875 W	5	5 disc tray	Yes	16.45kg	₹ 26,990
4 Bose Acoustic Wave II	—	2	—	—	6.49 kg	₹ 65,138
5 Sony MHC GNZ888D	470 W	5	3 disc tray	Yes	13.3kg	₹ 15,990
6 Samsung MAX DA 75	135 W	2	1DVD	—	12.7kg	₹ 16,900
7 Panasonic SC VK670	500 W	3	5 disc tray	Yes	4.9kg	₹ 19,990
8 Mitashi PH60T	—	2	—	—	—	₹ 2,790
9 Samsung MAX DA55	90 W	2	3 DVD	Yes	10.5kg	₹ 11,900
10 Phillips FWD 397 / 98	240 W	2	3 DVD tray	Yes	13.9kg	₹ 33,638

1. MERIDIAN F80 Price: ₹ 2,00,000

Specs: 80 W total RMS; 2.1 channel sound; disc tray; FM tuner; 6.5 kg



PROJECTORS

	NATIVE RESOLUTION	BRIGHTNESS	THROW RATIO	POWER CONSUMPTION	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 NEC NP16	1024 x 768 pixels	2600 ANSI Lumens	1.8 ~ 2.2:1	180W	2.5kg	₹ 58,000	3D-imaging capabilities	No 3D accessories
3 Canon LV 7280	1024 x 768 pixels	2200 ANSI Lumens	50 inch	—	3.3kg	₹ 59,995	Bright, good resolution	None
4 NEC NP510W	1280 x 1800 pixels	3000 ANSI Lumens	21-300 inches	180W	3kg	₹ 81,000	Low power consumption	Pricy
5 Acer P5270	1024x768 pixels	3000 ANSI Lumens	50-inch	280W	3.0 kg	₹ 74,222	Dual speakers	Power consumption
6 BenQ MP512 ST	800x600 pixels	2000 ANSI Lumens	55 inch	285W	2.7 kg	₹ 50,000	Good throw ratio	Relatively small resolution
7 NEC NP 500	1024x768 pixels	3000 ANSI Lumens	1.8:1 inch	295W	2.99 kg	₹ 75,000	Short throw ratio	Pricy
8 Viewsonic PJ05352	1024X768 pixels	—	50 inch	—	2.5kg	₹ 48,000	Vivid and clear picture	No speakers
9 Acer S1200	1024x768 pixels	2,500 ANSI Lumens	164 inch	275W	3 kg	₹ 82,665	Good throw ratio	Pricy
10 Epson EH TW4000	1080 pixels	1600 ANSI Lumens	2.0 - 3.17	—	7.3 kg	₹ 1,92,800	Excellent contrast ratio	Heavy, Pricy

GAMES

	Platform	Genre	ESRB Rating	PUBLISHER	PRICE	Pros	Cons
2 Mortal Kombat	PS3, Xbox360	Arcade	Mature	Midway games	₹ 2,495	Graphics, Fun	Hard gameplay
3 Kinect Dance Central	Xbox360	Music	Teen	MTV Games	₹ 1,990	Fun to play	None
4 L.A. Noire	Xbox360	Third person sAction	Mature	Rockstar	₹ 2,499	Superb graphics	None
5 Mafia 2	PC, Xbox360, PS3	Third-person action	Mature	2K games	₹ 499	Graphics, gameplay	None
6 Kinect Adventures	Xbox360	Action	Everyone	Microsoft	₹ 2,499	Graphics	Game lags
7 Dirt 3	PC	Racing	Everyone	Codemasters	₹ 599	Graphics, Gameplay	None
8 WWE All Stars	Xbox 360	Arcade Fighting	Mature	THQ	₹ 2,495	Graphics, sound	Reversals
9 Little Big Planet2	PS3	Adventure	Everyone	Sony Computer Entertainment	₹ 2,499	Graphics, cutscenes	None
10 Marvel vs Capcom3	Xbox 360	Fighting	Teen	Capcom	₹ 2,499	Fun fights	None

DVD PLAYER

	SPEAKER CHANNEL SYSTEM	VIDEO UPSCALING	DOLBY DIGITAL	USB PORT	PRICE	PROS	CONS
2 Sony DVP - NS628P / B	—	—	Yes	1	₹ 3,590	USB playback	None
3 Minashi DVD-Z711	5.1	—	Yes	1	₹ 3,290	Card reader, 5.1 channel surround	Bland looks
4 LG DV 388	5.1	—	—	1	₹ 4990	Good picture quality	Pricy
5 Haier HD - 103	5.1	—	Yes	—	₹ 3,990	Multi-channel support	Pricy
6 Philips DVP596K	5.1	—	Yes	Yes	₹ 5,299	Multi-channel support	Pricy
7 Onida Candy	5.1	—	Yes	—	₹ 3,790	Great sound	None
8 Onkyo DV - SP406	—	Yes	Yes	—	₹ 16,350	Great surround	Pricy
9 Sony DVP - NS728HP / B	—	Yes	Yes	1	₹ 5,290	Video upscaling	None
10 Sony DVP - SR400P / B	—	—	—	—	₹ 3,290	DivX playback	No USB



1. EPSON DM3

Price: ₹ 49,990

Specs: 1960 x 540 pixels HD resolution; 2,000 ANSI lumens brightness; 3000:1 contrast ratio; 10W - 10W speakers; DVD slot; USB slot



1. HALO: REACH

Price: ₹ 2,499

Specs: Platform: Xbox 360; Genre : First-person shooter; ESRB Rating : Mature; Publisher: Microsoft



1. SAMSUNG DVD - H1080

Price: ₹ 5,900

Specs: Media Type: DVD, DVD -R, DVD -RW, DVD +R, DVD +RW, CD, CD -R, CD -R CD -RW, MP3; DivX compatible; Dolby Digital sound; USB port; 1 kg

CONTEST

WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF MANUFACTURING KNOWLEDGE, GIGABYTE DELIVERS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO USERS AROUND THE GLOBE, ESPECIALLY BASIC, GAMING AND HIGH-END MOTHERBOARDS. HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN SOME FABULOUS GIGABYTE MOTHERBOARDS.

1

In GIGABYTE G1.Sniper gaming motherboard users can connect how many graphic cards under SLI or CrossFireX configuration?

- a) 5
- b) 4
- c) 3

2

GIGABYTE GA-Z68XP-UD4 motherboard supports Intel's Smart Response Technology. How much faster is this technology than regular HDD-Only systems?

- a) 2x
- b) 4x
- c) 7x

3

How many USB 3.0 ports does GIGABYTE GA-Z68XP-UD4 motherboard support?

- a) Up to 4
- b) Up to 6
- c) Up to 8

4

GIGABYTE produces motherboards for which processors?

- a) AMD
- b) Intel
- c) AMD and Intel

5

In GA-A75M-D2H motherboard, GIGABYTE gives a simple application to manage and monitor hardware resources. What is the name of this application?

- a) Easy Tune 6
- b) Easy Do 6
- c) Easy App 6

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MOTHERBOARDS

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2ND PRIZE:

GIGABYTE Z68 MOTHERBOARD

3RD PRIZE:

GIGABYTE A75M MOTHERBOARD

CONSOLATION PRIZES:

ONE LAPTOP BAG; ONE MOUSE

Send your entries to contestgg@gmail.com or mail them to G&G, F-26 Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001.

All entries must include the full name, address, email address and phone number of the sender. The last date for receiving entries is August 10, 2011. The names of the winners of the contest will be announced in the September issue of G&G.

In case of more than five winning entries, winners will be decided through lots.

Requests for cash in lieu of prizes will not be entertained.

The contest is not open to any relatives or friends or affiliates of the India Today Group.



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CONTEST»»

THE IOMEGA DX HD MEDIA PLAYER ALLOWS YOU TO PLAY VIDEOS, MOVIES, PHOTOS AND MUSIC FROM THE NET ON THE TV SCREEN IN FULL HD (1080P) QUALITY. IT IS DLNA CERTIFIED FOR STREAMING CONTENT FROM ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE. HURRY AND WIN THIS FABULOUS GADGET.

1

What is the maximum storage capacity of the Iomega DX Media Player?

- a. 250 MB
- b. 500 MB
- c. 1 TB
- d. 2 TB

2

Which web browser is built into the Iomega DX Media Player?

- a. Flash 10.1 plug-in
- b. Firefox 1.0
- c. OmniWeb 4.0
- d. Amaya 8.0

3

What is the correct resolution that the Iomega ScreenPlay DX HD Media Player supports?

- a. 1080p
- b. 1091p
- c. 1089p
- d. 1078p

4

What are the connection interfaces that are available on the Iomega DX Media Player?

- a. AV:HDMI, composite, Component
- b. Wifi & USB Devices
- c. AV:HDMI, composite, Component, Optical Audio – I/O: Ethernet, Wifi, USB Device, 3 USB Host
- d. 3 USB Host, HDMI, Wifi

5

Which sound system does the Iomega DX Media Player sport?

- a. Dolby Digital
- b. Dolby Digital EX
- c. Dolby Surround 7.1
- d. Dolby SR

WIN
IOMEGA DX MEDIA
PLAYER



PRIZE:
1 IOMEGA DX MEDIA PLAYER

Send your entries to contestgg@gmail.com or mail them to G&G, F-26 Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001.

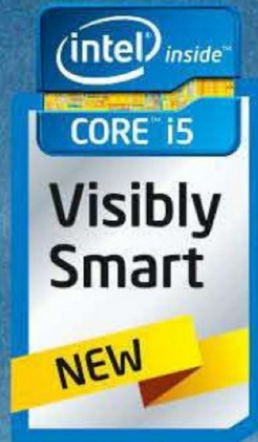
All entries must include the full name, address, email address and phone number of the sender. The last date for receiving entries is August 10, 2011. The names of the winners of the contest will be announced in the September issue of G&G.

In case of more than one all-correct entries, winners will be decided through lots.

Requests for cash in lieu of prizes will not be entertained.

The contest is not open to any relatives or friends or affiliates of the India Today Group.

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